canada's #1 movie magazine in ca

Famous

october 2005 | volume 6 | number 10

FIRST-TIME CAR BUYER'S GUIDE
PAGE 40

DVD SPOTLIGHT
BATMAN BEGINS
PAGE 46

Plus...

KEVIN BACON on WHERE THE TRUTH LIES

IN HER SHOES' CAMERON DIAZ

ORLANDO BLOOM talks ELIZABETHTOWN

Back in black

Antonio BANDERAS

THE SPANISH STAR LEAVES HIS MARK ON THE LONG-AWAITED SEQUEL, THE LEGEND OF ZORRO

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40708019

ANTHONY HOPKINS, GWYNETH PALTROW AND OTHER STARS RECOMMEND READING

The biggest risk in life

is not taking one.

Gwyneth Paltrow

Anthony Hopkins

Jake Gyllenhaal

Hope Davis

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IN THEATRES OCTOBER 14

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Seven years after he carved a Z in the hearts of moviegoers, *The Mask of Zorro*'s **ANTONIO BANDERAS** reappears as the swashbuckling hero in the sequel, *The Legend of Zorro*. It's a return to all-out action for the Spanish star who recently conquered his final professional hurdle — Broadway
| BY EARL DITTMAN

LOVELY ON THE INSIDE

LOVELY

SARAH JESSICA PARKER

THE FIRST SCENT

Sears

ELASTIC BANDERAS

Laugh if you will, but I'm going to go out on a limb and declare **Antonio Banderas** the most eclectic actor working today. Seriously.

I know for many of you the idea seems ludicrous, especially since the star of the new sequel, *The Legend of Zorro*, has developed a reputation as a bit of a one-note, lusty, romantic Spanish caricature. Perhaps you're even thinking of the caricature Chris Kattan used to do of him on *Saturday Night Live*, squeezed into tight leather pants, spouting breathy lines like, "I am, how you say, a-sexy."

But think about. There are very few actors who can jump from genre to genre like Antonio. In fact, my favourite Banderas performances create almost a cross-section of genres. He played one of the most heartbreaking romantic leads I've ever seen in his very first English-language movie, *Mambo Kings*; was touching, strong and sensitive as Tom Hanks' loyal boyfriend in *Philadelphia*; exuded power and machismo as the gun-toting mariachi of the Mexican western *Desperado*; sang his lungs out in the musical *Evita*; revealed his comic edge in the *Spy Kids* movies; had the sense of humour to parody his own commanding *Mask of Zorro* performance as *Shrek 2*'s adorable Puss-in-Boots; and he's currently preparing for one of the most epic performances of his career, as Roman emperor Hadrian in a historical drama from *Deliverance* director John Boorman.

The fact that he can never really lose himself in a role — in "Zorro Rides Again," page 32, Banderas admits "every American recognizes my voice. I can disguise it any way I want, and they still go, 'Oh, that's Antonio,'" — somehow makes his versatility even more impressive.

Another thing about Banderas…he's a workhorse, appearing in 26 movies in his native Spain before most of us had ever heard of him, and another 26 since that 1992 English debut in *Mambo Kings*.

The same can't be said of all actors. *In Her Shoes*, for instance, is **Cameron Diaz**'s first movie since her voice role opposite Banderas in last year's *Shrek 2*, and marks the first time she's actually appeared on screen since 1993's *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*. In "Diaz Finds the Right Fit," page 24, the actor explains why she needed a break, and why the Curtis Hanson-directed dramedy was enough, not only to pull her back, but for relatively little money.

Orlando Bloom also alludes to needing some time off in our interview for his first big departure from swords and sandals epics, *Elizabethtown*. In "Modern-day Orlando," page 20, the 28-year-old heartthrob says that, after he finishes the two *Pirates of the Caribbean* sequels, he "might decide that taking a little bit of time to recover is needed, to regroup the troops as it were."

And while **Kevin Bacon** doesn't think he needs a break from moviemaking, he does think he needs a break from the grave, disturbing films he's been drawn to recently. The latest one, Atom Egoyan's twisty whodunit *Where the Truth Lies*, arrives in theatres this month. After that, Bacon says, he's just gotta find a nice light romance or an action pic. Read all about it in "Bacon's Greasy Role," page 28.

Now I want all of you to go think about taking some time off, but remember, chances are you don't make millions and millions of dollars for a few months' work. So keep it short, eh?

—MARNI WEISZ

Famous

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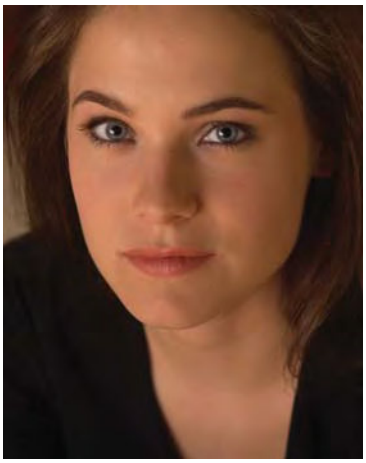
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CAROLINE DHAVARNAS?

In July 2003 you published a great article in your "Shorts" section on French-Canadian actress Caroline Dhavarnas. The article focused on the then-brand-new television show *Wonderfalls*, in which she starred and blew critics away. *Wonderfalls* has since been cancelled and I haven't heard any news of Ms. Dhavarnas in months. If you could kindly publish an update on her recent career movements, and perhaps a picture, I would very much appreciate it.

Aliisa Percival — Ajax, Ont.



Dhavarnas has been quite busy since Wonderfalls *(which, by the way, we missed on TV but watched, and quite enjoyed, on DVD). She has five films in the works, the question is, how many of them will make it to theatres? The lone American-made film is* Truth, Justice and the American Way, *starring Adrien Brody as a detective investigating the death of TV's Superman, George Reeves.* These Girls, *in which Dhavarnas plays a New Brunswick teen who can't decide what to do with her life, made its debut at last month's Toronto International Film Festival.* Niagara Motel, *about a group of struggling characters who cross paths at a Niagara Falls motel, is still awaiting a release date. And then there are a couple of French-language films (which will surely come out in La Belle Province, but who knows about the rest of the country) —* Comme tout le monde, *a romantic comedy that revolves around a marketing company, and* La Belle bête, *a drama about the conflict between beauty and ugliness (hmmm…wonder which side Dhavarnas represents).*

DIRECTIONS TO *BATMAN BEGINS* DIRECTOR

I love *Famous* magazine! Every time I walk into Famous Players I always pick it up and read it before the movie shows and then 10 times after that when I get home! I also love *Batman Begins*! I believe it was the greatest movie of the year. It truly paid tribute to everything Batman is…and there is one man I would truly like to thank for this blessing of a movie, [director] Christopher Nolan. If possible I would like to get a hold of Mr. Nolan so that I can congratulate him on such a great film.

Dave Franciosca — Stoney Creek, Ont.

We spoke with Christopher Nolan's agent (okay, we spoke with the mumbly guy who answers the phone in Nolan's agent's office), and he said you're welcome to send fan mail there. Address it: Christopher Nolan, c/o United Talent Agency, 9560 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, California, 90212.

FAMOUS WELCOMES YOUR COMMENTS

ADDRESS THEM TO: Letters to the Editor, *Famous* magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1X9; or fax us at 416.539.8511; or drop us an email at editor@fpmedia.ca. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include your full name, city of residence and contact info (phone or email).

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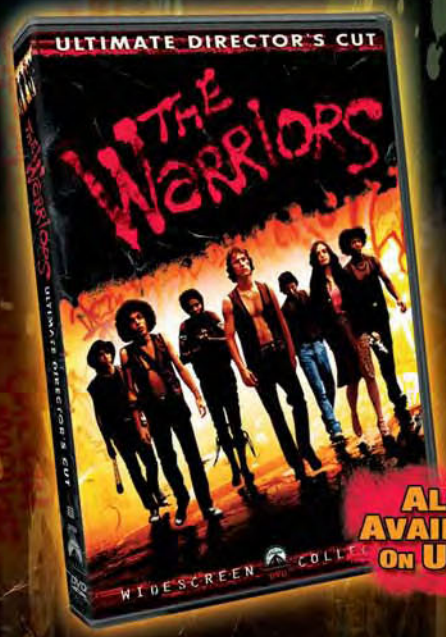

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CAUGHT ON FILM

JIM CARREY, JENNIFER ANISTON, MATT DAMON, KATE WINSLET, NICOLAS CAGE

PHOTO BY AARON ST-CLAIR/SPLASH NEWS

^^^ On a beautiful Chicago day, a sinewy Jennifer Aniston plays Frisbee with a friend during a break from shooting *The Break Up*. And, no, that friend was not Vince Vaughn.

PHOTO BY BRIAN PRAHL/SPLASH NEWS

<<< Aw, we always knew he was a good guy. Matt Damon snaps a self-portrait for a fan on the Long Island set of *The Good Shepherd*. Damon plays a CIA agent in the film, which co-stars Angelina Jolie and Robert De Niro, who also directs. It should be out by Christmas 2006.

PHOTO BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE

^ A wan-looking Kate Winslet gets a touch-up on the ^ New York set of *Little Children*. The plot — a bunch of ^ young parents interact with each other on the playgrounds and streets of a small town — sounds something like *Desperate Housewives*. But expect it to have even *more* of an edge, it's the first film from director Todd Field since *In the Bedroom*.

PHOTO BY DOM EMMERT/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

^ We have no idea why Jim Carrey was allowed ^ on the court during a break at the U.S. Open, ^ aside, of course, from the fact that he's Jim Carrey. Here the actor reacts in typical Jim Carrey fashion after hitting a ball into the crowd at the Flushing Meadows tournament.

PHOTO BY THE GROSBY GROUP

<<< Nicolas Cage, his very pregnant wife Alice Kim and their schnauzer prepare to board a boat in Vancouver, where Cage is shooting *The Wicker Man*. We're not sure whether the pooch's pink vest is a lifejacket or just an accessory.

TRICK or TREAT

Halloween means sweets for the kiddies, but what about adult movie and TV fans craving candy? *Famous* gives you the lowdown on our favourite pop-culture confectionery, and don't worry, we won't sugar-coat it. —IR

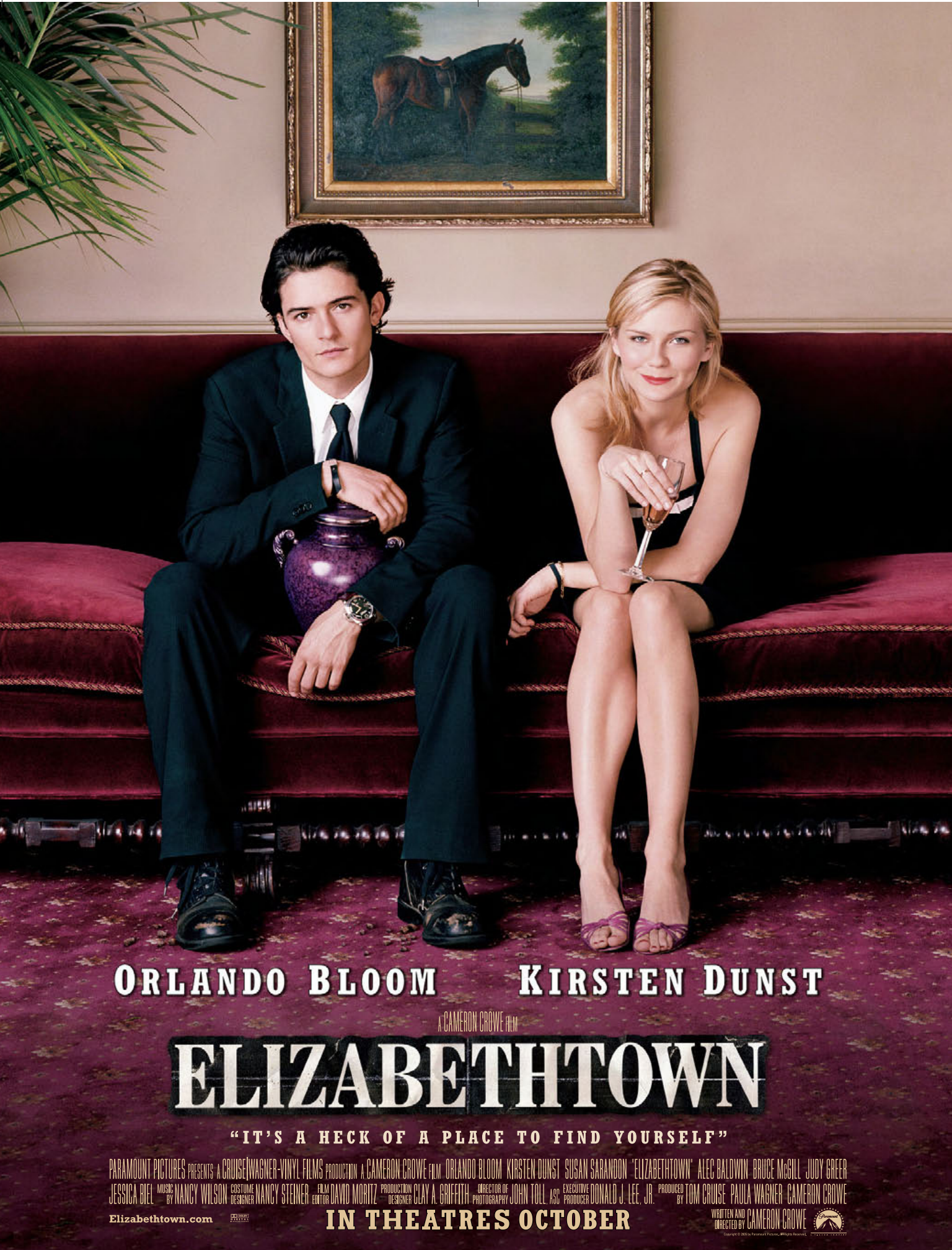
	COOL FACTOR	YUM RATING	BANG FOR BUCK	FINAL GRADE
DUFF BEER MINTS	**A** The pint-sized packaging of Homer Simpson's favourite beer rocks. Call 'em white trash Tic Tacs.	**B** Not as powerful as good 'ol Altoids, but close.	**B** At $2.99 a can, with more than 50 mints inside, you're paying about five cents a mint.	**B+**
SHREK & THE INCREDIBLES PEZ PACKS	**B-** The Pez dispenser's retro look is never out-of-date, but the company likes to flood the market with movie and TV tie-ins (check out the giant musical *Star Wars* Death Star dispenser!).	**B** The tart, chalky square tablets are one-bite good.	**C** For $3.99 you get the dispenser and three packs of Pez candy. That ain't a lot of candy.	**B-**
WONKA BAR	**B** The new Willy Wonka movie was a box-office winner, giving this chocolate bar with graham crackers street cred.	**B** A tasty-enough bar, but there's hardly any graham cracker to be found.	**C** You've gotta be Johnny Depp rich if you want to dish out $1.59 for this small bar.	**B**
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS GUMMY KRABBY PATTIES	**B+** Everyone in Bikini Bottom loves Krabby Patties, making these cute little gelatin burgers an inspired candy concept.	**F** Yuck! Great idea, awful follow-through.	**C** You get 22 patties for $2.99, which isn't such a great deal, but who cares, you don't want to be ingesting them anyway!	**D**
BERTIE BOTT'S EVERY FLAVOR BEANS	**A+** It's as if the Bertie Bott's Beans described in the *Harry Potter* books magically appeared in Muggleland!	**A+** The genius of this box of many-flavoured jellybeans is that it actually gets kids to buy, and eat, awful-tasting candy! Sure you can enjoy a cherry bean, but who can resist trying awful flavours like Rotten Egg?	**B** There are about 40 beans per pack, which sell for $3.99 each.	**A**

Share Julia Roberts' dental records

Call it the subtlest Halloween costume ever.

Those are Julia Roberts' teeth you're looking at — well, not her actual teeth, but a row of prosthetic imposters that are made to snap on over your own chompers.

New York dentist Jeff Golub-Evans (seen here) started fashioning resin veneers after celebrity smiles because he felt it gave people the best idea of what they were going to get, and let them be more specific in requesting what they wanted. Golub-Evans has already copied the smiles of Gwyneth Paltrow, Sarah Jessica Parker and George Clooney, but just bring him a photograph of your favourite star and, for about $2,000, he'll give you their teeth. **—MW**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Elizabethtown.com
IN THEATRES OCTOBER
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY CAMERON CROWE

Degrassi star graduates to movies

LAUREN COLLINS says having her very own locker inside Degrassi High is cool enough, but then to be fawned over by Kevin Smith *and* make a movie with Antonio Banderas, well that borders on the unbelievable.

The 18-year-old Thornhill, Ontario, native plays outspoken Paige Michalchuk on the award-winning *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, part of the franchise that celebrates its 25th season this year. She has spent the past four years roaming the halls of Canada's most famous high school dealing with painful, real-life situations *The O.C.* wouldn't touch.

"We are not afraid to tackle issues other shows are afraid of," says Collins on the phone during a break from filming. "It's meant our American broadcaster hasn't been able to air some of our strongest episodes, like the abortion episode."

Director Kevin Smith (*Dogma*, *Clerks*, *Chasing Amy*) loved the original *Degrassi Junior High* so much that he asked to guest star in its equally compelling descendant, *D:TNG*. His much-publicized appearance stretched over last season's final few episodes.

"He's an obsessive fan," says Collins. "It's really cool. We were all so excited to meet him because obviously we are all at that age where we love his movies, but he was just as star-struck to meet us. He knew all our names, and we were like, 'Whoa, this is very bizarre.' But he's just such a nice, smart guy."

Collins started acting at age 10 and has steadily moved from performing in children's theatre to TV shows to the big screen. She makes her movie debut alongside Antonio Banderas in the upcoming musical/dance drama *Take the Lead* (set to open in January), which stars Banderas as a former professional ballroom dancer who volunteers to teach dance in a New York City high school. The film is based on the life of dancer Pierre Dulane and was shot in Toronto earlier this year.

"I play Caitlin, who is a bad dancer," says Collins with a laugh. "When I first found out about the audition they said it was a dance movie, and I was like, 'What, are you serious! You know I'm not a dancer.' But we had four weeks of training before we started filming…and the real Pierre Dulane came and taught us."

And what about working with Antonio? There are only about 10 million women (and quite a few men) out there who would step on her toes to cut a rug with the sexy Spaniard.

"It was amazing," she says. "Back to what we were saying about Kevin, Antonio is also a guy like that, he is not Hollywood, he is such a generous actor. He didn't baby us, he was one of us and treated us all like professionals and serious actors, which was cool.

"There are a lot of young people in the movie and we have to work very closely with him, so before we started filming we had a little get together in his hotel. We all just hung out for the whole night and bonded, shot the sh-t, that kind of thing and that was really, really great. He's just such a sweet man."

—INGRID RANDOJA

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now in theatres

| BY INGRID RANDOJA

TWO FOR THE MONEY

WHO'S IN IT? **Matthew McConaughey, Al Pacino**
WHO DIRECTED? **D.J. Caruso (*Taking Lives*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? **Hotshot odds-maker Brandon Lang (McConaughey) is lured to work for a glamorous gambling operation run by the mercurial Walter Abrams (Pacino). But when Brandon's picks start losing, Walter starts second-guessing his golden boy.**

• HITS THEATRES OCTOBER 7

OCTOBER 7

WHERE THE TRUTH LIES

WHO'S IN IT? **Kevin Bacon, Colin Firth**
WHO DIRECTED? **Atom Egoyan (*Ararat*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This sexually explicit whodunit stars Bacon and Firth as a '50s comedy team who never satisfactorily explained how a maid (Rachel Blanchard) ended up dead in their hotel bathroom. Twenty years later an ambitious journalist (Alison Lohman) sets out to discover the truth. **See Kevin Bacon interview, page 28.**

IN HER SHOES

WHO'S IN IT? **Cameron Diaz, Toni Collette**
WHO DIRECTED? **Curtis Hanson (*8 Mile*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The sibling rivalry between spoiled, gorgeous Maggie (Diaz) and responsible, frumpy Rose (Collette) comes to a boil when the sisters meet the grandmother (Shirley MacLaine) they never knew existed. **See Cameron Diaz interview, page 24.**

WALLACE & GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT

VOICES: **Peter Sallis, Ralph Fiennes**
WHO DIRECTED? **Nick Park, Steve Box**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Nick Park's clay creations — eccentric inventor Wallace and his silent canine companion Gromit — are short-film superstars, having made audiences howl with their three animated shorts. Now the pair make their feature film debut as pest controllers tracking a mysterious creature chewing its way through local veggie gardens.

OCTOBER 9

WWE-PAY-PER-VIEW: NO MERCY

Chris Benoit, Batista, Nunzio and the rest of the SmackDown squad head to Houston, Texas, for an evening of all-out action. Check **www.famousplayers.com** for a list of theatres where you can watch it live, and to buy tickets.

OCTOBER 14

ELIZABETHTOWN

WHO'S IN IT? **Orlando Bloom, Kirsten Dunst**
WHO DIRECTED? **Cameron Crowe (*Vanilla Sky*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Cameron Crowe's latest talky-sexy dramedy is actually an homage to his deceased dad. Bloom stars as a running shoe designer who travels to Kentucky to bury his father and figure out where his life is going. Dunst pops up as the guru-like love interest who helps the depressed lad see the light. **See Orlando Bloom interview, page 20.**

NORTH COUNTRY

WHO'S IN IT? **Charlize Theron, Woody Harrelson**
WHO DIRECTED? **Niki Caro (*Whale Rider*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Based on the real-life case that helped change America's sexual harassment laws, this drama stars Theron as a coal miner who takes on the sexist jerks who work both below, and above, ground.

▶▶

DOMINO

WHO'S IN IT? **Keira Knightley, Mickey Rourke**
WHO DIRECTED? **Tony Scott (*Man on Fire*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? **Domino Harvey (Knightley), daughter of actor Laurence Harvey, ditches a modeling career to become a bounty hunter. In real-life, the rough-and-tumble profession and Harvey's own struggle with heroin addiction took its toll on the attractive tracker, who was found dead in her bathtub earlier this year at age 35.**

• HITS THEATRES OCTOBER 14

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DOOM

WHO'S IN IT? **Dwayne Johnson, Karl Urban**
WHO DIRECTED? **Andrzej Bartkowiak (*Exit Wounds*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? **The videogame world's most beloved first-person shooter blasts on to the big screen with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson playing a buff space marine who leads his troops inside an isolated research station on Mars to eliminate a pack of really scary aliens.**

• HITS THEATRES OCTOBER 21

THE FOG

WHO'S IN IT? **Tom Welling, Selma Blair**
WHO DIRECTED? **Rupert Wainwright (*Stigmata*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The concept of an evil fog invading a coastal town on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of a leper ship offshore was made into a movie once before, in 1980, by horror master John Carpenter. This remake stars *Smallville*'s Welling as the fog-fighting hero.

OCTOBER 21

SHOPGIRL

WHO'S IN IT? **Steve Martin, Claire Danes**
WHO DIRECTED? **Anand Tucker (*Hilary & Jackie*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Danes plays a high-end shopgirl who can't decide whether she'd be better off with her endearing slacker boyfriend (Jason Schwartzman) or her MUCH older and wealthier suitor (Martin). Martin, who wrote the screenplay based on his own novella, is tiptoeing into Woody Allen territory here, let's hope he can avoid icky May-December landmines.

DREAMER

WHO'S IN IT? **Dakota Fanning, Kurt Russell**
WHO DIRECTED? **John Gatins (debut)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A perky little gal (Fanning) helps rehabilitate an injured racehorse much to her father's (Russell) surprise. Now, if only she could bring back her dad's lost confidence and lust for life.

STAY

WHO'S IN IT? **Ewan McGregor, Ryan Gosling**
WHO DIRECTED? **Marc Forster (*Finding Neverland*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Hoping to stop his patient Henry (Gosling) from committing suicide, an earnest psychiatrist (McGregor) is drawn into Henry's bizarre world, which is teeming with evil apparitions.

KISS KISS, BANG BANG

WHO'S IN IT? **Val Kilmer, Robert Downey Jr.**
WHO DIRECTED? **Shane Black (debut)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A petty thief (Downey) trying to ditch the cops after a botched robbery literally stumbles into an audition for a Hollywood movie. The casting director loves him, and casts him in the role of a cop. So he has to train with a real cop (Kilmer) to get the lingo and mannerisms down.

OCTOBER 28

THE WEATHER MAN

WHO'S IN IT? **Nicolas Cage, Hope Davis**
WHO DIRECTED? **Gore Verbinski (*The Ring*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? When he's not blowing things up in action movies, Nicolas Cage keeps his inner artist fulfilled by making quirky character studies like this one about hapless Chicago TV weather man David Spritz, who gets a plum job offer from a New York station and must convince his fractured family to make the move with him.

PRIME

WHO'S IN IT? **Meryl Streep, Uma Thurman**
WHO DIRECTED? **Ben Younger (*Boiler Room*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Streep and Thurman show off their comedic chops in this dramedy about an analyst (Streep) who discovers her 37-year-old patient Rafi (Thurman) is having a hot-and-heavy affair with her 22-year-old son (Bryan Greenberg).

THE LEGEND OF ZORRO

WHO'S IN IT? **Antonio Banderas, Catherine Zeta-Jones**
WHO DIRECTED? **Martin Campbell (*The Mask of Zorro*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Zorro's (Banderas) peaceful life with his wife and 10-year-old son is interrupted when a power-hunger baddie threatens California's statehood. **See Antonio Banderas interview, page 32.**

SAW 2

WHO'S IN IT? **Donnie Wahlberg, Dina Meyer**
WHO DIRECTED? **Darren Lynne Bousman (*Identity Lost*)**
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? With the tagline "Oh yes, there will be blood" you know this sequel to the original *Saw* will live up to its gruesome expectations. When bodies — and body parts — start surfacing, a homicide detective (Wahlberg) realizes he's searching for the sadistic serial killer Jigsaw.

CHECK WWW.FAMOUSPLAYERS.COM FOR SHOWTIMES AND LOCATIONS

Some films play only in major markets. All release dates subject to change.

"BATMAN BEGINS BLEW ME AWAY."

– Kyle Smith, NEW YORK POST

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BUY IT OCTOBER 18

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GARY OLDMAN CILLIAN MURPHY TOM WILKINSON RUTGER HAUER KEN WATANABE AND MORGAN FREEMAN MUSIC BY HANS ZIMMER JAMES NEWTON HOWARD COSTUME DESIGNER LINDY HEMMING
EDITED BY LEE SMITH, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER NATHAN CROWLEY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY WALLY PFISTER, A.S.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BENJAMIN MELNIKER AND MICHAEL E. USLAN BASED UPON BATMAN CHARACTERS CREATED BY BOB KANE AND PUBLISHED BY DC COMICS
STORY BY DAVID S. GOYER SCREENPLAY BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN AND DAVID S. GOYER PRODUCED BY CHARLES ROVEN EMMA THOMAS LARRY FRANCO DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

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Black is the new black

| BY LIZA HERZ

Moody and romantic or sleek and minimalist, black is anything but neutral

Black is back and for the lazy among us, this is a godsend. While achieving a deliberately unstudied look requires effort, wearing all black lets you grab the first thing from your closet. And let's not forget black's slimming qualities — especially during those dreaded "fat days" when trying to wear paisley would make you feel like an overstuffed couch on legs.

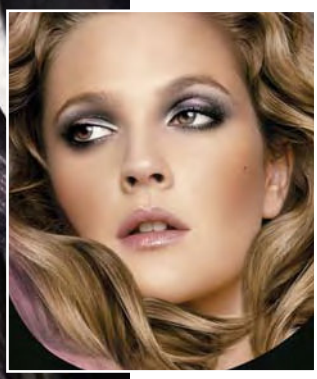
The fashion press has dubbed this back-to-black movement "the new sobriety," which to us is all wrong because it conjures the image of a librarian in a scratchy wool sweater. Sobriety implies sensible, rational behaviour — as if being level-headed ever resulted in springing for a spectacularly pricey new outfit.

Instead, we're calling it noir-to-go, a trend that nurtures a sense of mystery even as it plays to our practical nature.

And know this: despite the preponderance of deep eggplant velvets and acres of raven lace, the new black never descends into the self-dramatizing murk of Goth. This is *chic* black, rife with choice and extravagance — everything from sleekly minimal shifts by Jil Sander and Narciso Rodriguez to billowy, multilayered looks from Ann Demeulemeester, or Zac Posen's luscious velvets. Gucci has it both ways with a demure, high-collared coat that is also rich with black tone-on-tone embellishments. Sober? Not a bit.

The centrepiece of this already easy-to-wear trend is the resurgence of the little black dress — a staple. We can thank Coco Chanel, who invented it in 1926. *Vogue* christened it a uniform and thus was born an enduring icon.

In addition to being the ultimate speed-dresser's best friend (jump in, zip up, go), dresses are all about femininity in its purest form. No power suits here. You can even take a classic black shift, like our choice from Peter Nygard, and do it up with a cardigan and great boots for day, or heels and jewels for evening.



This fall's dark, rich makeup certainly isn't sobering either. Consider Lancôme "face" Drew Barrymore (left). Never has there been an actress so linked to the idea of fun and mischief, yet the effervescent blonde proves dark can be wearable. Maybe it's the contrast of her normally sunny disposition and those smoky, mysterious eyes.

But let's not overthink it. The beauty of noir-to-go is it's a look for anyone hoping to get a little elegance without going to tiresome lengths. Goth girls need not apply.

PHOTO BY PIERRE VERDY/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

The multilayered look from Ann Demeulemeester

With its classic cut and empire-waist detailing, this **Shift Dress** (Peter Nygard Signature, $195, at The Bay Queen Street and Yorkdale, Vancouver downtown and Montreal downtown) can be Audrey Hepburn elegant or downtown cool.

Lancôme's **Vernis Magnétic Unfailing Nail Lacquer** in Molten ($18, Shoppers Drug Mart) is a rich garnet with gold undertones to accent your darkest fall ensembles.

Their jewel-like, jet-black packaging and intoxicating rose fragrance make Anna Sui's **Eye Color Accents** (The Bay, $19) a chic addition to your fall beauty bag.

Dark in the tube and transparent red on the mouth, Clinique's universally flattering **Black Honey Almost Lipstick** ($18, department stores) is a perfect foil for dark clothing.

A pair of **Low-Heeled, Knee-High Boots** (Feet First, $210) is a fall essential.

Revealed by undone buttons or hidden from view, this **Ultra-Lacy Bra** (La Senza, $34.50) worn under fall's new staple, a black officer's jacket, mixes elegance with raciness.

This **Cutaway Jacket** (Mango, $99, Sherway Gardens, Toronto; Montreal Rockland) is a little bit military and a little bit rock 'n' roll.

MODERN-DAY ORLANDO

Cameron Crowe's quirky, romantic ***ELIZABETHTOWN*** finally drags **ORLANDO BLOOM** from period pics to the 21st-century

| BY BOB THOMPSON

Some pundits predicted that the teen-crush hysteria over Orlando Bloom would fade away after memories of his portrayal of Legolas in *The Lord of the Rings* series dissolved into ancient history. They would be, like, so wrong.

As Bloom says, he continues in vain to be low profile and inconspicuous. Obviously his actor protection program is failing him in the most dramatic way.

"And believe me," says the 28-year-old fanzine favourite during an interview at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Pasadena, California, "I have tried a lot of different things to go about my life in a normal fashion."

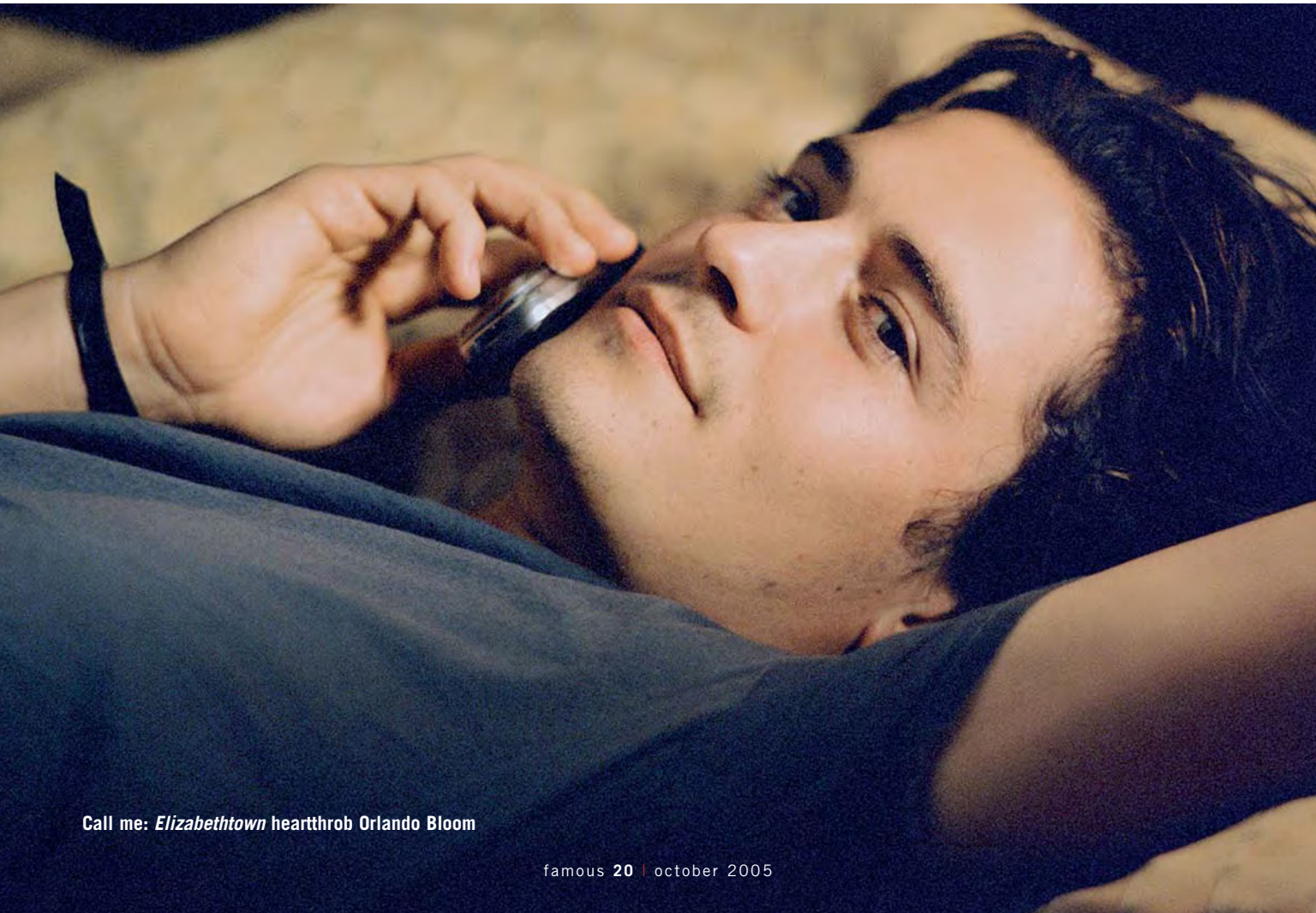
Trouble is, there's little he can do regarding Bloom-mania, except endure the attention and let the screams run their course. Although he admits he wondered if the hysteria would ever peter out after more than 6,000 Bloom-maniacs surrounded his isolated inn in the Spanish countryside where he was filming *Kingdom of Heaven* last year.

"Oh, we had a lot of girls screaming into the wee hours," recalls the slim six-foot actor. "Something of that magnitude had never happened to me before. I was a little overwhelmed."

He survived the attention, as he undoubtedly will again as *Elizabethtown*, Cameron Crowe's latest relationship dramedy, goes through its series of premieres before opening in theatres this month. The film's North American debut came last month at the Toronto International Film Festival, after it opened at the Venice Film Festival just days before.

Bloom plays Drew, a sneaker designer who is berated by his over-bearing boss (Alec Baldwin) just before he's informed that his father has died suddenly. The two traumatic events send him reeling, and force him to take stock. Then, on the airplane trip to his dad's Kentucky funeral, Drew meets a flight attendant (Kirsten Dunst) who inspires him to see life from another perspective.

Prompted by the death of Crowe's father, *Elizabethtown* is the writer/director's examination of a very personal and sentimental journey. It's not exactly new territory for the creator of previous acclaimed relationship movies like 1996's *Jerry Maguire* and 2000's *Almost Famous*. But it was unique enough for Bloom, who says he was thrilled to collaborate with the actors' director. More importantly, Bloom says he responded to the intimacy of Crowe's dialogue and the eccentric situations conjured up in the action, "which relies heavily on intelligence and heart."



Call me: *Elizabethtown* heartthrob Orlando Bloom

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– Prairie Miller, LONG ISLAND PRESS

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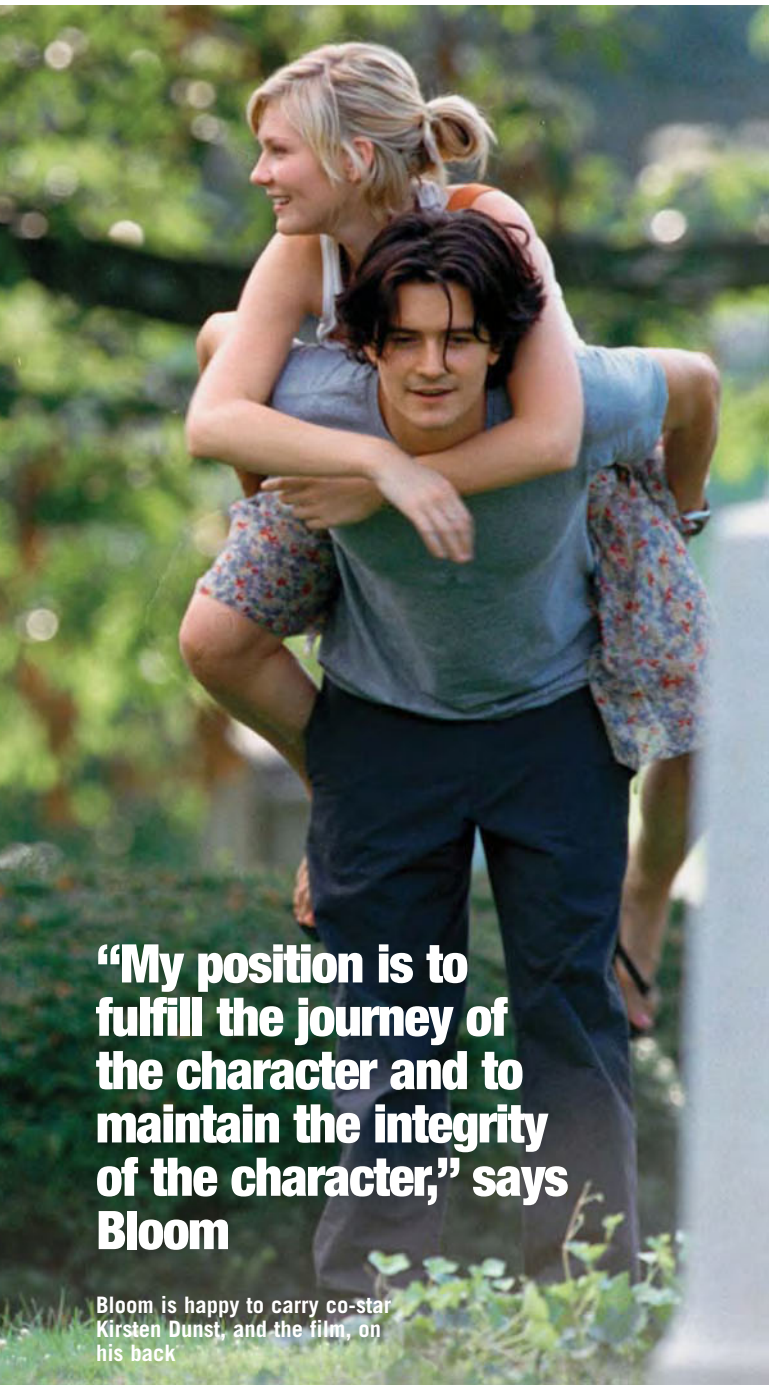
Coming after his previous mammoth movies, *Elizabethtown* also gave Bloom the rare chance to dissect the confessional emotions of a man on the verge of self-discovery. Unlike the *LotR* series, *Kingdom of Heaven* or *Troy*, the actor was allowed to explore subtleties and shades of behaviour. "And Cameron is a true master of that," says Bloom.

And while costume pictures seem to suit him well, as indicated by his return to the Will Turner role in the sequels *Pirates of the Caribbean 2* and *3*, currently shooting in the Bahamas, Bloom's version of Crowe's modern-day lost soul has whet his appetite for more.

"After doing something like *Elizabethtown*, I see myself following through on that quirky romantic comedy style," Bloom says. "I certainly wanted to do something smaller, and less of an epic, to show that I can, in fact, do something completely different."



"My position is to fulfill the journey of the character and to maintain the integrity of the character," says Bloom

Bloom is happy to carry co-star Kirsten Dunst, and the film, on his back

The big-budget blockbusters may have served his career well, but Bloom says his craft is what is important to him, and always has been. "My position is to fulfill the journey of the character and to maintain the integrity of the character. So that's what I do," he says.

The irony is that he feels he won the parts in those big Hollywood movies based on his London theatre training. And, indeed, who knows if Bloom would've blossomed so fast if *Rings* director Peter Jackson had skipped the production by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he saw Bloom perform, which eventually led him to cast Bloom as Legolas. "Luck and coincidence," Bloom acknowledges, had a huge part in his rise.

Born in Canterbury, England, on Jan. 13, 1977, Bloom says he was as shy as he was thin. He did come to life on stage, however, so he joined the National Youth Theatre at age 16 and spent a few years developing his abilities before winning a scholarship to London's British American Drama Academy.

He made his film debut in 1997's *Wilde*, the bio-pic about Irish playwright Oscar Wilde, then quietly returned to Guildhall School where Jackson would change his life forever.

Filmed over a two-year period from 1999 to 2000, the subsequent releases of the three *Lord of the Rings* films, 2001's *The Fellowship of the Ring*, 2002's *The Two Towers* and 2003's *The Return of the King*, made Bloom very rich and recognizable.

He's certainly no stranger to the gossip mongers, having dated, then broken up with, then reunited with actress Kate Bosworth more than a few times over the past 10 months. And this past summer he was caught in the act of comforting his former girlfriend, Sienna Miller, after her very public problems with philandering fiancé Jude Law.

He shrugs off all the publicity, ignoring the good with the bad. "I'm very fortunate to get dressed up and run around with a sword or a gun or with a girl or whatever I do," he says. "It's very simple. There's a price to pay for getting to do what I love. And if the price is that someone makes some money because people are interested in a picture of me buying a cup of coffee, then whatever.

"To be honest," he continues, "I try not to be swayed by the positive or negative comments that come my way. I live day-to-day, moment-to-moment, as a man who's just trying to do the right thing."

And, by the way, don't rush Bloom as he makes his way.

"You know what, I still see myself at the very beginning of my career," he says. "I am five or six years out of drama school, and I've had these incredible opportunities."

In fact, after *Pirates 2* and *3* finish up next spring, he might step back a bit and assess his situation. "I might decide that taking a little bit of time to recover is needed, to regroup the troops as it were," he confides. "Or I might be doing some theatre, if it's appropriate."

So what's his main goal?

"To have happiness, contentment, friends, a family some day," he says. "And having a purpose that fulfills me creatively and in every other way. It's all good."

Especially if you are Orlando Bloom. F

Bob Thompson writes about movies for the National Post.

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Diaz finds the right fit

After a lengthy break from the big screen, **CAMERON DIAZ** returns in the ensemble dramedy ***IN HER SHOES***. She even took a pay cut. Here she tells you why | **BY EARL DITTMAN**

When she made $20-million (U.S.) for the 2003 sequel *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*, considerably more than her co-stars Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu, Cameron Diaz became one the highest paid actresses in Hollywood, second only to Julia Roberts.

So when news broke that Diaz's salary for her latest movie, *In Her Shoes* — an adaptation of author Jennifer Weiner's bestseller — was a fraction of that, one had to wonder if the back-to-back-to-back box office disappointments of *The Sweetest Thing, Gangs of New York* and *Full Throttle* lessened her asking price.

The 33-year-old San Diego native says no. She loved the book, and the film's relatively small budget — $36-million, in an age when so many major releases cost more than $100-million — just meant she'd have to work for much less than she was used to.

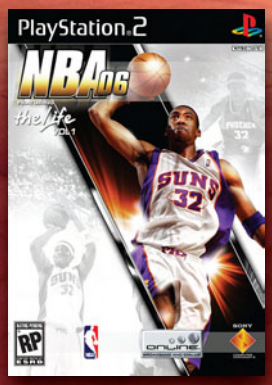
"There's so few good roles for women out there, even at my age, that when you find one you really believe in, you do it if they pay you a dollar, because it's not like I'm starving or anything," jokes Diaz, lounging on a couch in a Big Apple hotel suite that overlooks New York City's Central Park.

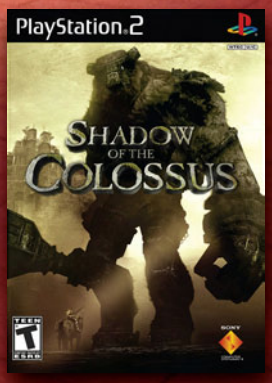
Directed by Curtis Hanson (*8 Mile, L.A. Confidential*), *In Her Shoes* co-stars Diaz and Toni Collette as sisters who are polar opposites, yet are always together. Maggie (Diaz) is the irresponsible, hard-living, promiscuous younger sister; Rose (Collete) is the slightly overweight, responsible, resentful and loveless sister who has acted as Maggie's reluctant guardian since their mother died when they were kids. The film begins as their relationship is at its breaking point, with Rose sick of Maggie's selfish behaviour. But just when it looks like Maggie is about to lose her only close female relative, she discovers the maternal grandmother she never knew (Shirley MacLaine).

"I don't understand Maggie's selfishness and her sense of entitlement," concedes Diaz. "She felt that everything was meant to be given to her, and part of that was because of her loss as a child. Since I had never suffered that loss, I don't know what it's like."

Physically, Toni Collette drew the tougher assignment; to play frumpy ▶▶

Cameron Diaz as free-spending Maggie





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Rose she had to gain 20 pounds. Although she put on much more weight for her breakthrough role in 1994's *Muriel's Wedding*, Collette wasn't thrilled about packing pounds onto her now 32-year-old body.

"A decade ago I could sweat off the weight in a couple of weeks," says Collette in a phone interview. "I wasn't that sure it would be that easy now that I'm an old woman. Actually, Curtis wanted me to put on 40 pounds, but we made a compromise. If I gained 40, he'd have to work it off with me until he lost the same amount of weight. He said 20 would be fine."

Earlier this summer, while promoting *Bewitched* in L.A., 71-year-old MacLaine said she had it even worse than her young *In Her Shoes* co-stars. "They didn't know what having it bad means, Curtis made me take off all my makeup and I had to act in my own hair, what little there is left," MacLaine says with a smile. "That's just cruel to do to a woman my age. We want to enhance what little looks we have. I'll get that Curtis. But Cameron wanted me to be in this movie so bad, I endured the shame."

Chock Diaz's desire to work with MacLaine up to the unconventional acting school the younger actor has developed for herself. A mere fashion model until the day she was cast opposite Jim Carrey in 1994's *The Mask*, Diaz has turned every movie she's done since into a grassroots film school.

"I've gotten to the point in my career where I want to work with the best directors like Curtis and Marty [Scorsese] and actors and actresses that I can learn more from because I still feel like I'm a novice at all of this," explains Diaz. "I mean, for me, the art of acting is just starting to sort of sink in. I've just been having on-the-job training for the last 10 years. [That's] the way that I look at it because, at times, I still really have no idea what I'm doing."

Attentive Diaz fans will notice that *In Her Shoes* is the first film the actor's done since her voice role in *Shrek 2*, which came out in May 2004. The last time she actually appeared on screen was way back in June 2003, when *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle* was released. Over the past couple of years she's gotten more press for dating Justin Timberlake, giving the finger to paparazzi and testifying against a photographer who faked her signature on release forms for some naughty old photographs, than she has for her acting.

"I'm not happy it happened, believe me," Diaz says of the court case. "It's not at all where I wanted to direct my energy and it wasn't where I wanted to have to spend time, but it's a good thing that it's over now."

But Diaz's break from acting was also self-imposed. After *In Her Shoes* wrapped filming more than a year ago, she decided it was time for a little vacation, "to remind myself of who I really was."

"I think you are who you are," she continues, "but sometimes you have to get away from the environment you're in to remember that person. It's interesting, because I came to Hollywood at such a young age, and I just kind of watched people — famous or not — and I never saw anything that I wanted to be, I just saw things I didn't want to be.

"L.A. is an interesting place because, for the most part, people come here to be rich or famous. But when that's what drives you — to be rich or famous — that intention is not a healthy or a very realistic sensibility, and I think that makes people more shallow. So I try not to get caught up in all of that and live a normal life. Sometimes," she says, "that means taking some time off."

"I don't understand Maggie's selfishness and her sense of entitlement," says Diaz

Having become intensely private since she started dating Timberlake two years ago, Diaz struggles to keep her personal life out of the tabloids. "It takes a lot of energy, but it's important to me to have my own time," Diaz says. "It's really not that hard to avoid all that tabloid mess. I just say, 'No thank you,' or I say, 'Get the hell out of my face.' I handle the situation whatever way it needs to be handled to maintain what is important to me."

Diaz just began filming *W.A.S.P.S.*, in which she plays Jackie Cochran, the real-life head of a troop of female fighter pilots who never saw combat, but handled secret Stateside duties during the Second World War. And next year she'll shoot the Nancy Myers-directed romantic comedy *Holiday*, and voice Princess Fiona yet again for *Shrek 3*.

"I'm dying to start acting again," Diaz says with a big smile. "I feel like this is one of the best times of my life. I can learn to be the best actress I can be."

Earl Dittman is an entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas.

Maggie (Diaz) and her frumpy sister Rose (Toni Collette)

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BACON'S GREASY ROLE

He's gone from cutie-pie star of middling romantic films to serious thespian prone to dark and disturbing roles. **KEVIN BACON** might need a break from bleak after Atom Egoyan's difficult whodunit, ***WHERE THE TRUTH LIES*** | **BY INGRID RANDOJA**

Kevin Bacon as the lecherous Lanny Morris

Twenty-one years ago he moussed his hair and laced up his Chuck Taylors to play *Footloose*'s teen rebel and became a movie star in the process.

Kevin Bacon's breakout role as a kid who defies a small-town edict against dancing seems laughably quaint when you compare it to his latest act of on-screen rebellion, playing a sleazy entertainer in Atom Egoyan's controversial new pic, *Where the Truth Lies*.

Never one to shy away from a difficult role — he played a fascist gay con in *JFK*, a sadistic prison guard in *Sleepers* and a pedophile trying to change his ways in *The Woodsman* — Bacon steps into the line of critical fire in Egoyan's murder-mystery, which has tongues wagging (and earned a rarely used NC-17 rating in the States) due to its much-discussed ménage à trios scene.

"I hope we can sort of get beyond the idea it's just a film with sex in it, there's certainly a lot more to it than that," says Bacon on the phone from New York.

Of course, the 47-year-old actor's right. The film, based on Rupert Holmes's novel, is an intricate whodunit driven by Egoyan's trademark cool, calculating vision, and Bacon gives a standout performance as wise-cracking Lanny Morris.

Lanny and his straight-man partner Vince Collins (Colin Firth) work as a Vegas-style comedy team that makes it big in the '50s, but their careers bottom out when a maid (Rachel Blanchard) is found dead in the bathroom of their hotel suite.

Flash forward 15 years to the early '70s when an ambitious young journalist (Alison Lohman) is hired to write a book about the legendary comedy team and is expected to get them to reveal, for the first time, the truth behind the girl's unexplained death.

While the film asks Bacon to bare both his soul and his skin, it also gives him the chance to show off his musical talents. When not acting, Bacon performs with his brother Michael in their aptly named rock band, The Bacon Brothers (their fourth studio album, *White Knuckles*, was ▶▶

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released this past summer).

"In the book, Vince is really the singer," says Bacon. "But since I'm a singer and a musician we picked Lanny to be the musical side of the act, and since Colin is British we felt it would be great to utilize that and create something that did not exist, because there never was, as far as I know, a comedy duo that had a British guy and an American guy. So that was really the challenge, to create something that didn't exist but felt like it could have. It was a lot of fun, I've never had the chance to do that '50s style of entertaining."

Lanny is the latest link in a chain of wounded souls Bacon has recently brought to life. Beginning with *Mystic River*'s emotionally restrained cop who's dealing with guilt and horrific memories, to *In the Cut*'s scary stalker, to *The Woodsman*'s tortured child molester, Bacon has been delving into some very dark places and would like nothing better than to lighten his load. He's openly admitted an action flick might be good right about now.

"Well, it doesn't necessarily have to be action," he says coyly. "It could be comedy, it could be something romantic, but I would like to do something that is, in some ways, heroic really. I'm tired of playing these morally questionable characters, although that wasn't so much the case with my character in *Mystic*. Something more like what I did earlier in my career."

Born in Philadelphia on July 8, 1958, Bacon moved to New York at the age of 18 to become, as he once said, famous. He grew up around fame, his father, Edmund Bacon, was a noted city planner who appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine when Bacon was a boy.

Having trained as an actor, Bacon turned heads on stage with his brash and powerful performances, which led to his first movie role as straight arrow Chip Diller in *Animal House*. He did two soaps, more theatre, and in 1982 landed a plum role in director Barry Levinson's *Diner*. Two years later, when Tom Cruise and Rob Lowe were unavailable, Bacon stepped into *Footloose*'s leading role.

"I hope we can sort of get beyond the idea it's just a film with sex in it," says Bacon

Alison Lohman and Kevin Bacon

In 1988 he met actor Kyra Sedgwick on the set of the TV movie *Lemon Sky* and the pair were married later that year. They've got two kids, Travis and Sosie Ruth, and their marriage is the envy of acting couples everywhere. They've vowed never to spend more than two weeks apart and they've made seven movies together, two of which saw Bacon directing Sedgwick (1996's *Losing Chase* and the yet-to-be-released *Loverboy*). Talk about testing the matrimonial bonds.

"It's good working with her, she's the best actress I know and I like directing," says Bacon.

"We do have to be a little protective because she's wanting me to be the director and in control, and I'm having kind of a freak out and I can't let my leading lady know that," he says with a laugh. "Directing is completely consumptive and with something like *Loverboy* — which was a very, very difficult role for her, she plays this woman, a single mom who is kind of mentally crumbling — it puts a certain distance between us and we had to close that gap once the movie was over."

Being a director himself, you have to wonder how he'd grade *Where the Truth Lies*' auteur Egoyan…

"He's a very intellectual guy, very smart and very well-read," notes Bacon. "Sometimes his brilliance goes right over my head [laughs]. He likes to really talk things out, talks things out I think for himself to hear. I can do that to a certain extent, and then I'm much more of an instinctual kind of performer.

"But when we got on set there was a new director I didn't expect, all the talking was finished. He's very well organized and had a very pragmatic approach to shooting. He has a crew that he's worked with for many years, the day is smooth and he doesn't do a lot of takes.

"But I look for a role to bring something out in me, I don't so much rely on the director. I think the director's job is to cast well and to put the camera in the right place and have a vision. Rarely have I gotten into the situation where somebody whispers some brilliant piece of direction and all of a sudden I know how to act, that's not the way it goes. It's much more about creating an atmosphere where I can do my work."

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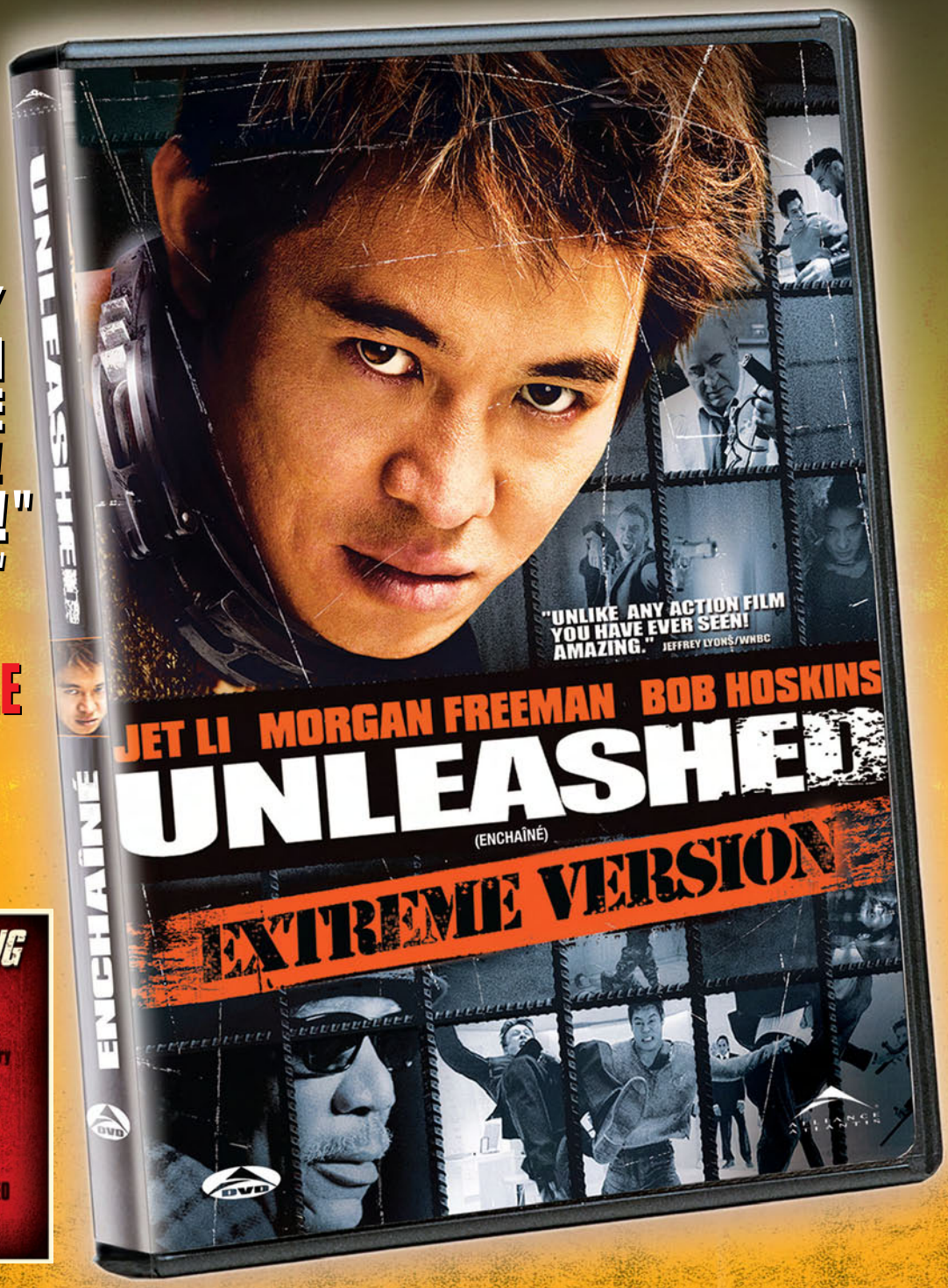

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Zorro rides again

ANTONIO BANDERAS does what he does best — donning a black cape and mask, wielding a sword and letting that thick Spanish accent run wild — for the swashbuckling sequel ***THE LEGEND OF ZORRO*** | **BY EARL DITTMAN**

Poor Zorro, he thought California was going to be just fine on its own. After he saved the embryonic state from a corrupt Spanish politician in the 1998 movie *The Mask of Zorro*, it seemed like California had matured, could stand up for itself, and let him get on with his life. Not so.

Ten years after the events of the first movie (we know, it's only seven years in real time, but play along), corrupt forces are once again trying to steal California. So Alejandro de la Vega, or Zorro, is compelled to come out of hiding and take on the baddies. That "hiding" was a peaceful domestic life that his wife Elena (Catherine Zeta-Jones) was very much enjoying. It also involved a 10-year-old son who knew nothing of his father's acrobatic alter ego. The result is the swashbuckling sequel *The Legend of Zorro*, in theatres this month.

"It's more mature than the first one," says the man behind the mask, Antonio Banderas. "The concepts are mature, like the jealousy between the husband and the wife, and the relationship between the father and the son. It's quite different."

Looking dashing as ever, the Spanish actor, now 45, sat down with *Famous* at a Beverly Hills hotel to discuss his second stab at the legendary freedom fighter.

What did the first *Zorro* do for your career?

"Playing Zorro seems like a lifetime ago because, for me, *The Mask of Zorro* was the movie that really made me recognizable with American audiences. It only came out seven years ago, but back then I was still improving my English and I could do my own stunts without my entire body aching and feeling like it was falling apart."

Seven years is an unusual amount of time between sequels these days, why the lag?

"Although Marty [director Martin Campbell] was anxious to start on a *Zorro* sequel the day after the original movie opened, I don't think he got the go-ahead to actually consider doing another one until a year or two later. And then there were a lot of false starts because the scripts we were getting were never that good…. We didn't want to do *The Legend of Zorro* just for the sake of getting all back together, because we could go to each other's house for that." ▶▶

Heroic couple: Catherine Zeta-Jones and Antonio Banderas

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Did you ever think it wouldn't get made?
"Every day! Actually, I won't believe we did it until I see it on opening day [laughs]. There were just so many things working against us. Scheduling is always a problem, but if you believe in a project enough you make your schedule work. There were times when I didn't always think that we would have the right script. Luckily, one finally fell in our lap and we jumped at it. I think we all changed our schedules around to do it."

Why do you think people want to see another Zorro movie?
"Everyone loves a hero, that's why Spider-Man, Batman and Superman movies do so well. Zorro, though, is much more down-to-earth. He doesn't have any secret, special power. He's a guy who believes in what is right and wrong and isn't afraid to fight for it. I think all of us wouldn't mind putting on a little mask and doing some crime-fighting."

Did the *Shrek* filmmakers cast you because they wanted Puss-in-Boots to be Zorro-like?
"I think that the first idea that they had for the character was The Three Musketeers' D'Artagnan, with a French accent. Obviously, when they called me, they rejected that idea immediately [laughs]. Obviously, after 16 years here in Hollywood, I think that every American recognizes my voice. I can disguise it any way I want, and they still go, 'Oh, that's Antonio.' It's my accent. So we went with it."

Two years ago you debuted on Broadway in *Nine* and sold out 228 performances, and I understand there's more theatre in your future.
"It's interesting because I've been so many things in particular periods in my life. I was a lover boy for many years. I suppose that I recognize myself as a very eclectic actor. I have done horror movies like *Interview With the Vampire*, musicals like *Evita*, adventure movies like *The Mask of Zorro*, action movies like *Assassins* and social commentary like *Philadelphia*. And I've done movies for kids at the same time. I have been on many different turfs. Now I've done theatre, I directed a movie and I've been producing, too. I love that. I feel that it's the essence of being an actor."

"He's a guy who believes in what is right and what is wrong," says Banderas

What are you doing on Broadway next?
"It's a musical called *Death Takes a Holiday* based on the movie, and it was written by the same author who wrote *Nine*.... Fortunately, it's a new play and, for me, that's important. If you're the first one to play a role in a new show, you're going to provide the character with a life and a voice that people will always remember. That is good because I'd never had that experience before."

What's it like going from the cushy life of a movie actor to the strenuous schedule of a Broadway star?
"It was physically very, very hard, but I will tell you with no doubt that it was the most beautiful experience. No doubt about it. I'm an actor because of theatre. I worked for six years in the National Theatre in Spain, and different companies here and there. But not in America. I was very afraid of doing theatre in English, and being on stage for two hours and 45 minutes, singing 14 songs, and not getting off the stage for a second. It was a very rewarding experience. I felt very well received within the Broadway community. It's so tiring. You can't even imagine how tiring the last two months of eight performances [a week] were, and I didn't miss one. That was very important to me because I didn't want to look like I was acting like a spoiled Hollywood star.

Is that what people are waiting to see, a spoiled Hollywood star fail?
There is such a competition between Broadway and Hollywood. A guy from Hollywood comes to Broadway, and they're just waiting for bad behaviour like that. They're like, 'Movie actors are so pampered. They can't handle real acting.' But it was good to work there. I lost about 15 pounds doing the show, so my pants were constantly falling down. And every performance, we use to lose around five litres, so we had to be drinking water continuously. Doing the show got me in shape, but I was so tired, all I wanted to do was rest. Luckily, Melanie [his wife, actor Melanie Griffith] was performing *Chicago* on Broadway too, or she would have left me [laughs]. Every night she was so tired, all she wanted to do was sleep too, thank goodness." F

Earl Dittman is an entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas.

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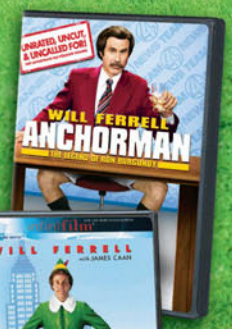

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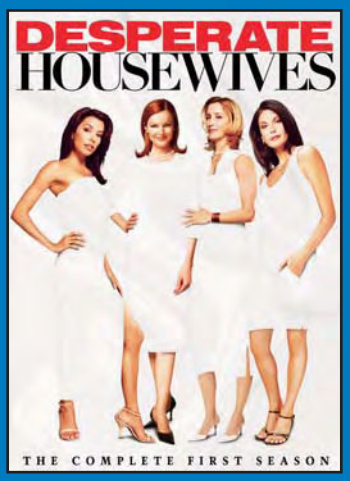

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THE NEW WORLD (JANUARY)

The generation that only know John Smith and Pocahontas via Disney's animated musical can now get the real story as told by infamously meticulous filmmaker Terrence Malick.

The reclusive writer/director's first film since 1998's *The Thin Red Line*, and only his third since 1978's *Days of Heaven*, relates the historical events which unfolded as a group of British settlers — including adventurer John Smith — arrived at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, 13 years before the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

To faithfully capture this pivotal point in North American history, Malick employed a virtual army of archeologists, professors, and even an Algonquin language expert to teach the native actors how to speak a tongue that's been virtually dead since 1780.

Stunning newcomer Q'orianka Kilcher plays Pocahontas, the playful favourite child of a powerful chieftain, and Smith's (Colin Farrell) love interest.

Of Quechua/Huachipaeri Indian and Alaskan/Swiss heritage, Kilcher is a mere 15 years old, and you can bet this raw film — shot in the wilds along Virginia's Chickahominy River — was a far cry from her only other big-screen experience, as a "little choir member" in 2000's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Look for the film to draw much of its power from Malick's trademark stark imagery shot in natural light.

Q'orianka Kilcher in *The New World*

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (NOVEMBER)

It's like when Darth Vader's wrinkly white face was unmasked in *Return of the Jedi*, or we finally saw Marlon Brando's mad Colonel Kurtz at the end of *Apocalypse Now*. After three films in which the ultimate villain of the *Harry Potter* franchise — Lord Voldemort — was no more than a nervously whispered name, at last we get to see his face in all its wretched glory — and lo and behold, that face belongs to Ralph Fiennes.

All of your old faves are back too, Daniel Radcliffe as an increasingly adult Harry who is charged with taking part in an ages-old wizarding tournament, Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley, now a gangly adolescent prone to jealousy, and Emma Watson as Hermione Granger, who's taken to crusading on behalf of mistreated house elves.

BRIEFLY...

DECEMBER

- *King Kong* — Peter Jackson's first directing effort since the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy has him giving orders to a giant ape with a crush on a beautiful blonde (Naomi Watts).

JANUARY

- *Freedomland* — Samuel L. Jackson and Julianne Moore star in this drama about what happens when the mother of a missing girl blames an African-American man from the projects.

FEBRUARY

- *The Pink Panther* — Steve Martin updates the role of Inspector Clouseau, played for so many years by the late Peter Sellers.

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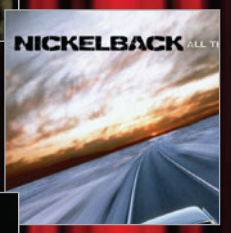

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famoustrivia

1 Nick Park, director of the new claymation pic *Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*, has made only one movie in the past 10 years that isn't about inventor Wallace and his dog Gromit. Name it.

2 For which videogame spin-off of one of his famous movies did Al Pacino, star of this month's *Two for the Money*, recently record a voice track?

Al Pacino, left, and Matthew McConaughey in *Two for the Money*

3 Which star of *In Her Shoes* has a website where she promotes a spiritual lifestyle and sells things like crystals, naturopathic remedies and aroma therapy?

4 What is *Stay* star Ryan Gosling's connection to Britney Spears?

5 Which record does *Shopgirl* writer/actor Steven Martin hold at *Saturday Night Live*?

6 Nicolas Cage stars in *The Weather Man* this month. Next year he'll star in *The Wicker Man*. And in 2000 he starred in another movie that started with "The" and ended with "Man." Name it.

7 In the romantic-comedy *Prime* Uma Thurman is seeing a psychotherapist played by Meryl Streep. It's a field Thurman knows something about since her mother is a psychotherapist. Her father, meanwhile, is a world-renowned scholar of a certain religion. Name that faith.

The Weather Man's Nicolas Cage

answers

1. *Chicken Run* 2. *Scarface* 3. Shirley MacLaine
4. They were Mickey Mouse Club members at the same time
5. Most times as host 6. *The Family Man* 7. Buddhism

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FIRST-TIME CAR BUYER'S GUIDE

The new models are out, but which one's right for you? | BY MARK TOLJAGIC

There are lots of firsts you'll likely never forget: your first date, your first tattoo, your first student loan. But few events provide the kick of your first new car. That empowered feeling as the sales rep hands you the keys; that intoxicating new-car smell as you get behind the wheel.

Chances are your very first car was a used one, probably dad's old Pontiac that got passed down like that old drafting table you lugged to college. It worked, but in an unglamorous, minimum-wage kind of way.

Maybe it's time to reward yourself. We've put together a list of practical and affordable new cars to consider for your first new ride. Every car here promises to be cheap to keep in terms of fuel, maintenance and insurance, as well as easy to carry whether you lease or finance.

TOP FIVE NEW CARS UNDER $20,000

• Most Reliable Friend on a Cold Night

Leave it to a motorcycle company to build an all-around great small car. And with the eighth-generation **HONDA CIVIC** just introduced for 2006, this Canadian favourite has a fresh design and the latest technology.

The new 1.8-litre DOHC (double overhead cam) four-cylinder engine delivers more performance and better gas mileage thanks to its improved i-VTEC system for maximum torque output during acceleration and enhanced fuel economy.

The net result is 140 horsepower and 128 lb.-ft. of torque — lots of go for your dough. The Civic Si coupe packs a brand-new 200 horsepower i-VTEC four-cylinder mated with a six-speed manual gearbox with limited slip differential for better cornering and traction.

Both the coupe and sedan get swoopy new styling, while retaining the Civic family good looks. The cars also grow marginally larger inside and out. Best news is, Honda has barely raised the base price (under $17,000), while adding more features.

Two alternate choices when durability is your top priority: the **TOYOTA ECHO** and **COROLLA**. Like the Civic, they deliver bulletproof reliability, slow depreciation and good bang for your dollars.

• Driving the Best Deal

There's inexpensive and then there's getting the best value for your money. The new **CHEVROLET COBALT** — and close cousin, the **PONTIAC PURSUIT** — are solid hitters from the biggest manufacturer in the world. Replacing the ancient Cavalier (whose bones date back to 1981), the Cobalt is all-new and full of value-added features for under $16,000.

The Cobalt is no slouch, motivated by a 2.2-litre DOHC four-cylinder that puts out 145 horsepower and 155 lb.-ft. of torque. GM engineers sweat the details, building a solid structure and packing it with lots of sound insulation. It drives and feels like a bigger car. The trunk is huge and the interior is styled with high-lux features.

Available also as a two-door coupe, the Cobalt is light-years ahead of the Cavalier, a driving-school staple. If you've dismissed this car because of that, it's time to look again. And GM dealers are willing to discount — a word you'll never hear spoken in a Honda or Toyota store.

Honda's 2006 Civic sedan

Chevrolet Cobalt

Can you negotiate a sweet deal from a Japanese company? Yes, if you shop for a **NISSAN SENTRA** or **MITSUBISHI LANCER**. Both cars have been around a few years but have not sold in big numbers, which means dealers are motivated to, well, deal.

Best Car for Pinching Pennies

The innocuous **KIA RIO** has long flown under consumers' radars. But retooled from the ground up for 2006, it gains nicely in width, height, wheelbase and even the trunk. Now nine centimetres longer, the new wheelbase improves the ride quality and legroom inside. The interior marks a big advancement — definitely a nice place to spend time.

While small and inexpensive, the Rio comes standard with six airbags, enveloping the driver and passengers with a safety canopy in the event of a collision. The

Kia Rio

engine is a 1.6-litre DOHC four-cylinder that yields 110 horsepower and 107 lb.-ft. of torque, available with either a five-speed manual or four-speed automatic transmission.

And Kia is introducing a funky five-door hatchback version, the Rio5, for 2006. Like all Kias the Rio is built in Korea, but you'd be hard-pressed to differentiate this latest generation from your favourite Japanese brand. Who says saving money has to hurt?

Alternatives in the lowest-priced segment (around $13,000) include the all-new **HYUNDAI ACCENT**, which employs the same engine and platform as the Kia Rio. Also worth a look are the **CHEVROLET AVEO** and **SUZUKI SWIFT**, which are actually twins from the same Korean maker, Daewoo. Confused yet?

Best All-Weather Trooper

All-wheel drive is an increasingly sought-after feature, especially given today's squirrelly weather. An AWD car is more about keeping your grip in bad driving conditions, rather than climbing some backwoods goat path.

The machinery doesn't come cheap, but we managed to find one Canadian model that squeaked under our $20,000 price cap (with heavy discounts): the **SUZUKI AERIO SX AWD**. It's an unconven-

Suzuki Aerio

tional little wagon that comes packed with anti-lock brakes, aluminum wheels, six-disc stereo, side airbags, heated mirrors and remote keyless entry.

Power is generously supplied by a 2.3-litre DOHC four-cylinder engine, good for 155 horsepower and 152 lb.-ft. of grunt. Due to the complexities of all-wheel drive, the car comes standard with a four-speed automatic transmission.

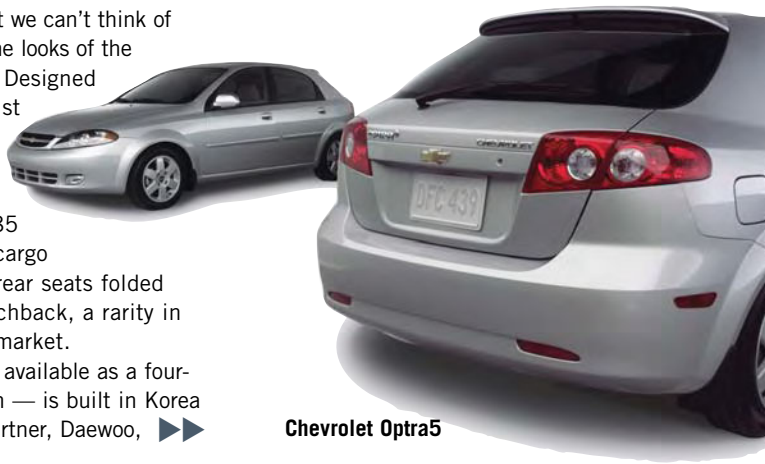
Built in Japan, the Aerio SX is uncommon in Canada, but a huge seller back home. If you like the idea of driving something reverse-engineered from a Tamagotchi, this Suzuki may be just your kind of car.

There are no AWD alternatives at this price, but if you're willing to spend about $4,000 more, you can get into an all-wheel-drive **TOYOTA MATRIX** or **SUBARU IMPREZA**, both excellent cars.

Best Car to Draw Envious Glances

Style is subjective, but we can't think of anyone who dislikes the looks of the **CHEVROLET OPTRA5**. Designed by famed Italian stylist Giorgetto Giugiaro's ItalDesign studio, the Optra5 is a true original boasting 1285 litres (45 cu. ft.) of cargo space with the split rear seats folded down. Hey, it's a hatchback, a rarity in the North American market.

The Optra5 — also available as a four-door sedan and wagon — is built in Korea by General Motors' partner, Daewoo, ▶▶


Chevrolet Optra5

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The idea behind this rebate is to attract good potential customers who may become loyal to the brand as their earning potential increases. According to George Iny, president of the consumer group Automobile Protection Association, it's surprising how many experienced salespeople and shoppers overlook this opportunity. Iny offers a few tips to take full advantage of this rebate program.

- **Cut your best possible deal and then ask for the recent-graduate rebate. The money comes from the factory and doesn't accrue to the dealer's account. Sometimes the money comes in the mail after the sale; sometimes you can have the sum taken off the invoice.**
- **Salespeople sometimes promise the discount to customers who don't qualify. The surprise comes later. Be sure to acquaint yourself with the program; details are on each manufacturer's website.**
- **There are strict guidelines. Minimum two-year diploma earned up to two or three calendar years ago. If you've been out of school longer, you probably don't qualify. Older students pursuing an MBA or PhD can usually get it.**

INSURANCE WOES

Finding — and *keeping* — the best rate

Insuring your new car can be a major financial burden, in some cases not much less than the actual cost of the car. Here are some helpful insurance-buying tips from Lee Romanov, president of www.insurancehotline.com.

SHOP AND COMPARE RATES

Alberta, Manitoba and New Brunswick are not allowed to use gender or age to determine what you pay for car insurance. Ontario drivers are not so lucky. Guys can pay several thousand dollars more than girls. Ditto anyone 25 years old and under. A 19-year-old Toronto driver with a clean record may see a quote as low as $5,750 and as high as $15,551!

CHOOSE THE RIGHT CAR

Do your insurance shopping before you commit to a new-car loan or lease. Certain makes and models are rated higher than others by the industry, which means stiffer annual premiums. Generally, high-output sporty models cost more to insure. Also, try to choose a domestic model, as opposed to an import, which usually costs more to repair. Popular cars, like the Honda Civic, are valued like a domestic because there are so many of them.

PROTECT YOUR DRIVING RECORD

Tickets stay on your record for three years. One ticket can cause your premium to increase by $500, two tickets by $1,500 and three tickets could prompt your insurance company to show you the door. If you have passengers under 16 caught without their seatbelts on, the tickets will show up on your driver's abstract. And seatbelt tickets hold as much weight as speeding tickets in your insurer's eyes.

ASSIGNING FAULT AT AN ACCIDENT

If the insurance adjuster classifies you as being "partially" at fault in an accident, and you weren't, fight it. That classification holds as much weight as if you were "completely" at fault when it comes to your rate. It's your insurance company that determines who is at fault in an accident; police officers only determine if a driver should be charged under the Criminal Code, Highway Traffic Act or the Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act.

where the quality is rising rapidly to meet Japanese standards. Plus you get the benefit of GM's enormous network of dealers.

Power is supplied by a 119-horsepower DOHC 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine. Disc brakes reside at all four wheels, an exceptional safety feature at this price point (under $16,000).

Ford Focus

No question the Optra5 packs a lot of "kit." Inside, there's a metallic-trimmed instrument panel, standard tachometer and AM/FM/CD stereo. Add some aluminum wheels and a spoiler and you have one handsome ride. The Optra5 also comes in some killer colours.

If you're looking for fashionable alternates, check out the hot-selling **MAZDA 3**. This small sedan and sportwagon is a ball to drive. Another choice is the attractive **FORD FOCUS**. If you're into hauling stuff, the Focus is the best small wagon on the market.

Mark Toljagic writes about cars for the Toronto Star*'s "Wheels" section and* Calgary Living.

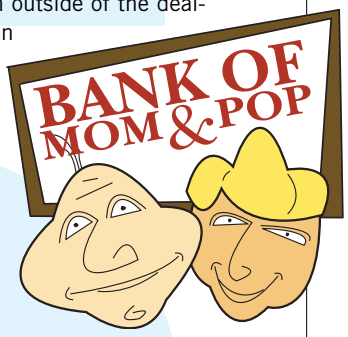
PAYING FOR THE THING

Should I lease or finance?

LEASING VERSUS FINANCING is often the biggest dilemma a new-car buyer has to face. Finance your purchase and you own the car, but the monthly payments may be pretty steep. Leasing is essentially renting; the car is owned by the leasing company, and you may or may not want to return it at the end of the term. On the plus side, the monthly payments are smaller and more manageable.

ZERO PERCENT FINANCING has enormous appeal but it's not what it may seem. In order to get "zero-cost" financing, you usually have to pay the manufacturer's full retail price, which has a lot of profit baked into it. The difference between that and the price offered to a buyer paying cash is your cost of borrowing — usually thousands of dollars. The "effective" interest rate is usually buried in the mouseprint at the bottom of the ads touting zero-cost financing, and can range from 7 to 13 percent. Yikes!

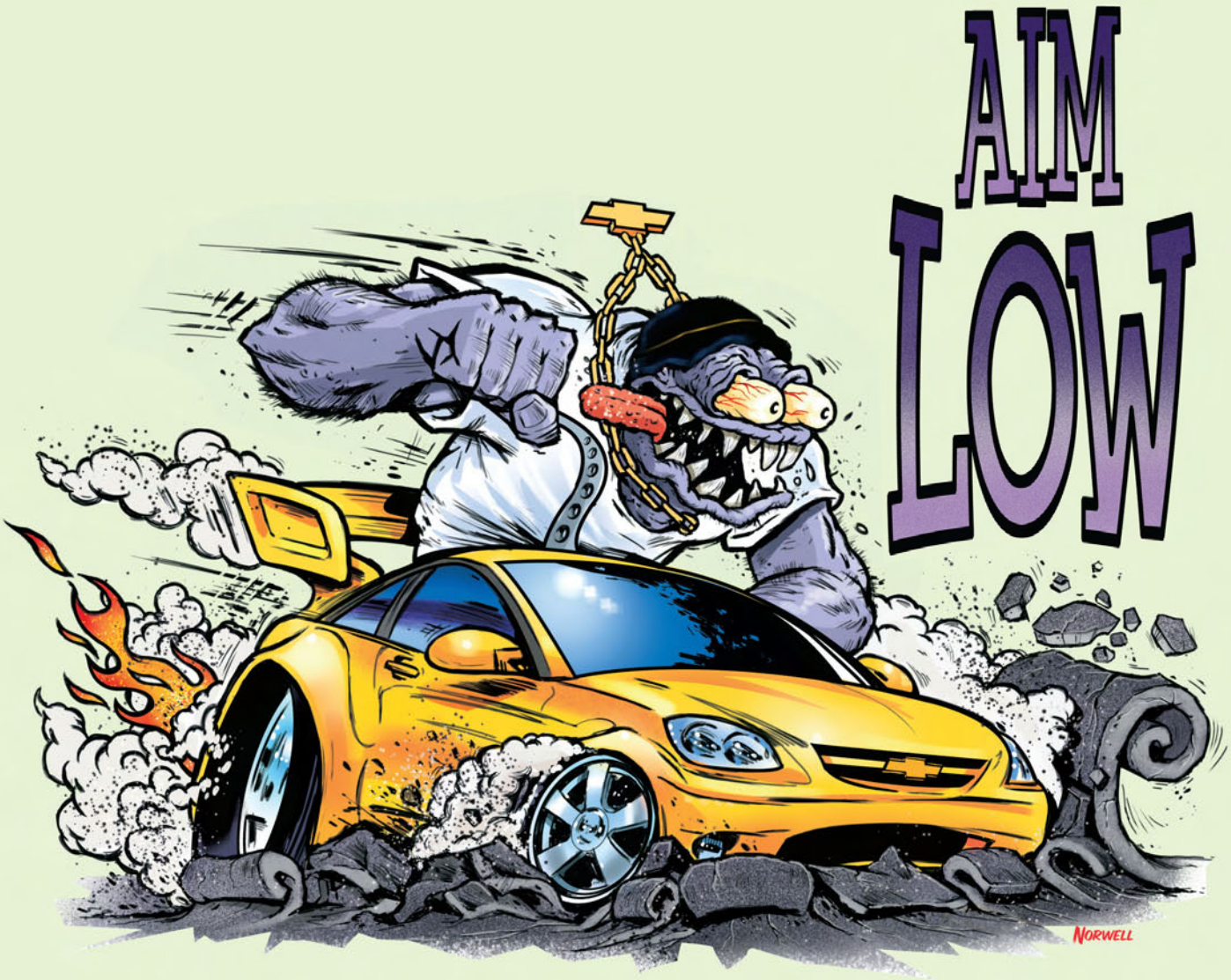
There are alternatives. You can negotiate your car loan outside of the dealership at a **BANK OR CREDIT UNION** at 5 or 6 percent, then walk in and pay the cash price. Bank financing offered through the dealer is in the range of 6.5 to 7.5 percent, likely still cheaper than 0 percent factory financing. Don't forget to try the **BANK OF MOM & POP**; they may be able to loan you the money at an attractive rate, especially if their savings are only earning one percent in the bank.



Impacting any loan rate is your **CREDIT HISTORY**. Even a small unpaid cellphone or credit card bill may result in a bad record at the credit bureau. Pay attention to your bills and take care of any outstanding ones. If you've never owned a credit card, now is the time to get one. Use the card to make your usual purchases, pay the balance every month and you'll soon have a favourable credit history. Without this, you may be required to find a co-signer for your car loan, or have to provide a large down payment.

LEASING is hugely attractive because you can get the same car for a smaller monthly payment. But the downsides are significant. If you have a long commute to work, you may surpass your kilometre limit early in your lease, and will have to pay a charge per kilometre beyond that, which could add up to a $3,000 or $4,000 penalty when you return the car. And if your car shows "unusual" wear and tear at the end of the term, such as a dented door, you may be required to pay the repair. Dealers tend to show more mercy if you demonstrate loyalty by leasing your next car from them.

If you plan to keep your car five or six years, **FINANCING** is the way to go. If you like to change vehicles every three years (just as the warranty ends), leasing makes some sense, but be prepared to pay for the privilege.



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SWIMMING WITH SHARKS

You get to be the big bad fish in *Jaws Unleashed* | **BY SCOTT GARDNER**

JAWS UNLEASHED

PC, PS2, XBOX

Thirty years after Steven Spielberg's mechanical shark scared swimmers out of the ocean, the Great White's pixilated cousin is back to wreak its terrible revenge on Amity Island.

Thanks to the sinister corporation Environplus, the beach resort community is growing rapidly and oil drillers are threatening your undersea habitat and happy hunting grounds. Now, driven mad by the human threat to your territory, and powered by two-and-a-half tons of muscle and 3,000 teeth, you will do anything to stop them. And yes, you read that right — you play the *shark*, not the pesky humans.

Developed by Appaloosa Interactive, the outfit behind 2002's whimsical *Ecco the Dolphin* titles, *Jaws* is a third-person action game where you chomp your way through 20 missions set in 10 meticulously detailed environments. In the tradition of adventuring titles like *Grand Theft Auto*, if you don't feel like accepting a mission you can just swim around freely and cause wanton mayhem.

As the most feared predator on Earth you'll be able to snack on both people and other sea creatures, and inflict real-time damage on vehicles and structures. And with a "dismemberment engine" that features 25 points of dissection when tearing into soft, tasty humans, no expense has been spared in the gore department.

But it's not just a simple sharky smorgasbord. After you chomp the son of Environplus's CEO he puts a bounty on your head, attracting famous shark hunter Cruz Ruddock. Also out to catch you is marine biologist Michael Brody who's trying to trap you for research purposes.

STUBBS THE ZOMBIE IN "REBEL WITHOUT A PULSE"

MAC, PC, XBOX

From *Silent Hill* to *The Suffering* to *Resident Evil* there's a long history of zombie videogames, but until now there's always been one thing missing: the zombie's perspective. With its rotting, wisecracking undead hero, *Stubbs* aims to undo those years of narrow-minded discrimination.

Once a door-to-door salesman, Stubbs rises from the dead in 1959 when the ultra-modern city of Punchbowl, Penn., sprawls over his grave. Now he's back and he's peeved — looking to pummel as many humans as possible, then conscript them into his zombie army by eating their brains.

The third-person action is built on a modified *Halo* engine and, true to zombie traditions, our man-thing can't use human weapons. However he can — in a glorious kiss-off to the dozens of games where his kind are used as target practice — bludgeon with detached body parts, throw his ribs like grenades, cough out poisonous sputum and direct his severed hand on solo missions.

TIM BURTON'S THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS: OOGIE'S REVENGE

PS2, XBOX

Oogie's Revenge continues the story from the 1993 movie, mimicking its distinctive style of stop-motion animation. While Pumpkin King Jack Skellington is away, his old foe Oogie Boogie returns and takes over Halloween Town. Now Jack has to oust the usurper and reclaim his throne.

The result is a 3-D action-adventure, where Jack can wander though Halloween Town battling Oogie's various minions, largely with the aid of a whip-like weapon called a Soul Robber. Capturing souls earns Jack the weapons upgrades he'll need to fight through the game's 25 levels.

Hitting store shelves at the same time will be *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas: The Pumpkin King* for GameBoy Advance, a side-scrolling action and platform game that tells the story of the first time Jack Skellington faced off against Oogie to become the Pumpkin King.

HALF-LIFE 2

XBOX

Last year *Half-Life 2* for PC won numerous awards and was widely hailed as the best first-person shooter ever, for its realistic and interactive environments, extremely intelligent enemy AI and unsettling, movie-like storyline. Now it's coming to the black box, where it promises to be one of the last great games before Xbox 360 takes over the neighbourhood.

Once again you are the crowbar-wielding scientist Gordon Freeman, but instead of escaping a research station overrun with hideous interdimensional monsters, you're in a city that's overrun by both ghastly aliens *and* a Big Brotherish military. (Not unlike Jack Bauer on TV's *24*, Freeman apparently has a knack for being in the wrong place at the wrong time more than once.)

Your mission is to eradicate the aliens and topple the dictatorship, but what you'll have to wait to find out is: why?

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new releases

GO HOME WITH **THE INTERPRETER**, **JIMINY GLICK** OR **BATMAN BEGINS** | BY SCOTT GARDNER

OCTOBER 4

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

Stars: Ryan Reynolds, Melissa George
Director: Andrew Douglas (*Searching for the Wrong-Eyed Jesus*)
Story: In this remake of the 1979 horror classic, the Lutz family gets what they paid for when their gosh-I-wonder-why-it's-so-cheap dream home comes complete with demonic spirits in no mood to share.

THE INTERPRETER

Stars: Nicole Kidman, Sean Penn
Director: Sydney Pollack (*The Firm*)
Story: After a U.N. interpreter (Kidman) overhears an assassination threat against an African head of state, she and the federal agent (Penn) assigned to protect her race to foil the plot. **DVD Extras:** director's commentary, alternate ending, deleted scenes, four featurettes.

JIMINY GLICK IN LALAWOOD

Stars: Martin Short, Jan Hooks
Director: Vadim Jean (*One More Kiss*)
Story: Corpulent and supremely clueless celebrity interviewer Glick (Short) stumbles into a real-life murder mystery at the Toronto International Film Festival. Largely improvised, the movie features cameos by Kiefer Sutherland, Whoopi Goldberg, Sharon Stone, Susan Sarandon, Kurt Russell and Steve Martin as themselves.

OCTOBER 11

KICKING & SCREAMING

Stars: Will Ferrell, Robert Duvall
Director: Jesse Dylan (*American Wedding*)
Story: When a sensitive family man (Ferrell) takes over as coach of his 10-year-old's last-place soccer team he discovers a nasty competitive streak he seems to have inherited from his bullying father (Duvall). **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, outtakes, four featurettes

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Stars: Orlando Bloom, Liam Neeson
Director: Ridley Scott (*Gladiator*)
Story: Master filmmaker Scott takes on the Middle Ages in this story of a young French knight (Bloom) who joins a Crusade to the Holy Land where he is charged with defending Jerusalem — the Kingdom of Heaven — against overwhelming odds. **DVD Extras:** two TV specials, text commentary with historical notes, four behind-the-scenes featurettes

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS

Stars: Amber Tamblyn, Alexis Bledel
Director: Ken Kwapis (*Sexual Life*)
Story: In this coming-of-age tale, four best friends keep in touch over the summer by passing around a pair of "magic" thrift shop jeans that fits each of them perfectly, despite their different sizes and shapes.

UNLEASHED

Stars: Jet Li, Morgan Freeman
Director: Louis Leterrier (debut)
Story: Since he was a child, Danny (Li) has been trained to do nothing but fight on command. But when he escapes from his crime-boss master, a blind piano tuner (Freeman) uses music to heal Danny's broken soul and teach him to be fully human.

OCTOBER 18

GEORGE A. ROMERO'S LAND OF THE DEAD

Stars: Simon Baker, John Leguizamo
Director: George A. Romero (*Day of the Dead*)
Story: After virtually inventing the zombie flick with 1968's *Night of the Living Dead*, director Romero's fourth undead thriller — about a beseiged city where the rich live in fortified skyscrapers and the poor in street-level squalour — continues to mix social satire with brain splatter.

OCTOBER 25

BEWITCHED

Stars: Nicole Kidman, Will Ferrell
Director: Nora Ephron (*Sleepless in Seattle*)
Story: Many merry post-modern mix-ups ensue when a fading Hollywood star (Ferrell) launching a remake of the 1960s TV series *Bewitched* inadvertently casts a real witch (Kidman) in the role of fictional witch Samantha. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, trivia track, 10 behind-the-scenes featurettes

HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

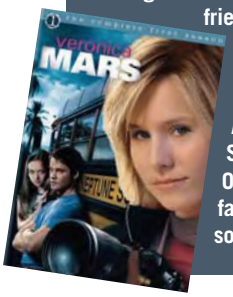
Stars: Lindsay Lohan, Matt Dillon
Director: Angela Robinson (*D.E.B.S.*)
Story: The little '63 Volkswagen bug with a mind of its own rides again. This time Herbie and his sassy young driver (Lohan) are out to conquer the NASCAR circuit and save her family's racing business.

HOUSE OF WAX

Stars: Elisha Cuthbert, Chad Michael Murray
Director: Jaume Collet-Serra (debut)
Story: A group of teens on a road trip stop to explore an abandoned wax museum

TV on DVD

Airing on UPN in the U.S. and debuting this past summer on CTV, *Veronica Mars* chronicles the life of a 17-year-old apprentice private investigator who navigates the stormy social waters of Neptune High by day, while working to solve the murder of her best friend by night. One of the most critically acclaimed TV shows of last year — often tagged as a successor to *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* — Season One arrives on DVD Oct. 11, just in time for new fans to catch up on last season's mysterious goings on.



peopled with eerily lifelike figures. Big mistake. Many grisly deaths follow, including the crowd-pleasing demise of a scantily clad Paris Hilton. **DVD Extras:** gag reel, cast commentary, three featurettes, the "Jennifer Killed" alternate opening

MELINDA AND MELINDA

Stars: Radha Mitchell, Will Ferrell
Director: Woody Allen (*Annie Hall*)
Story: Allen's latest follows the same quirky young woman (Mitchell) through two stories that start in the same time and place but then diverge — one becomes a romantic comedy, and the other an urban tragedy.

PHIL THE ALIEN

Stars: Rob Stefaniuk, Graham Greene
Director: Rob Stefaniuk (debut)
Story: In this offbeat comedy, an alien (Stefaniuk) crash-lands in northern Ontario where he quickly develops a drinking problem. To find a way home before American agents snare him, Phil enlists his new friends: a group of prostitutes, a Christian rock band and a talking beaver.
DVD Extras: bloopers, deleted scenes, director's commentary, music videos

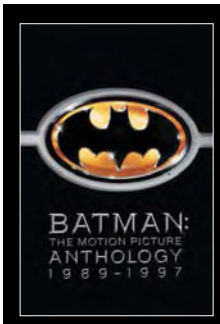
DVD SPECIAL EDITIONS

One sure sign the holiday shopping season is approaching is the launch of a number of high-gloss DVD boxed sets. Starting the month in fine style is the 15-DVD *Alfred Hitchcock: The Masterpiece Collection* (Oct. 4), 14 of Hitch's best films — including *Rear Window* (1954), *Vertigo* (1958) and *Psycho* (1960) — plus a bonus disc about Hitch's career and legacy.

With the mass and volume of a Borg cube, Trekkies will drool over the 20-DVD *Star Trek: The Motion Pictures Collection* which features double-disc Special Editions of all 10 *Star Trek* movies (Oct. 4).

Bowling into stores on Oct. 18 is a Collector's Edition of the Coen Brothers' cult fave *The Big Lebowski* (1998) that includes a bowling shammy towel and coasters with some of the Dude's most quotable lines.

This month also brings long-awaited new versions of two of the most popular movies of all time, both boasting restored colour and sound: the three-disc *Titanic Special Collector's Edition* (1997) with three new commentaries and 29 deleted scenes; and two- and three-DVD editions of *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), featuring multiple commentaries, vintage and new featurettes and piles of archival material.



BATMAN BEGINS

This summer Batman returned to the big screen in a brooding action-adventure that put the "dark" back in the Dark Knight. *Batman Begins* is a prequel to the four increasingly lightweight movies of the '80s and '90s, explaining in depth how the privileged young man from Gotham City transformed himself into the Caped Crusader.

After his billionaire parents are murdered in an alleyway mugging, young Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) uses his wealth to travel the world, looking for a way to fight injustice, eventually living and training with the League of Shadows, a martial arts group in the mountains of Asia. Eventually, Wayne returns to Gotham to take his place at the head of his parents' empire. But with the help of his dedicated butler/father figure Alfred (Michael Caine) and gadgetry expert Lucius Fox (Morgan Freeman), he also devises his alter ego: a masked crusader who will fight the sinister forces massing against his city.

Available Oct. 18, a two-disc Deluxe Edition of *Batman Begins* includes "Genesis of the Bat: Batman Incarnations from the mid-1980s to the Present," featurettes on the production design, new Batsuit, fighting style, new Batmobile, filming in Iceland and the monorail chase sequence, plus a 72-page comic book of vintage *Batman* stories.

Also in stores on the same date is *Batman: The Motion Picture Anthology 1989-1997*, a collection of new two-disc Special Editions of the first four modern *Batman* movies — *Batman, Batman Returns, Batman Forever* and *Batman & Robin* featuring all-new digital transfers and more than 18 hours of never-seen bonus features.

GO TO WWW.BLOCKBUSTER.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION

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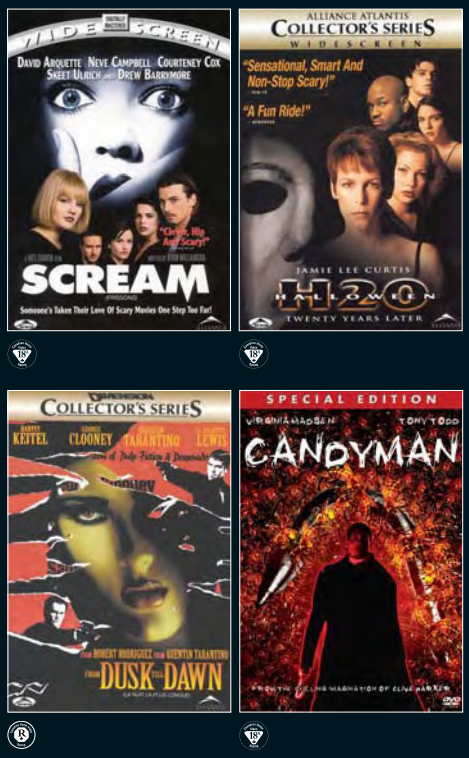

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October 2005

HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN

Libra

September 23 ☆ October 22

It's a good time for assertiveness training. Work at saying "of course," rather than "perhaps." Make the first move in resolving a dispute with a stubborn friend. Exercise restraint when spending on others, you tend to get carried away.

Scorpio

October 23 ☆ November 21

"Knowledge is power" should be this month's mantra. Financial planning continues to be a priority. You find that you enjoy, and are good at, investment and other money-related activities. Don't squander a burst of energy that surges during the week of the 17th.

Sagittarius

November 22 ☆ December 22

You're starting to feel more comfortable with changes in your life. A truce is declared following a conflict with a relative you care about. A couple of friends feel ignored. Make a supreme effort to include them in your plans.

Capricorn

December 23 ☆ January 20

You simply can't afford to be a couch potato. October is a great time to meet a soul mate. There's also a musical note to the month. If not singing a solo, you could be writing lyrics.

Aquarius

January 21 ☆ February 19

Self-confidence soars. If you thought you were an underachiever in some area — public speaking, for example — this is a perfect time to prove yourself wrong. October is also a good month for a makeover — nothing bizarre, though you should make a statement.

Pisces

February 20 ☆ March 20

Folks haven't been pulling their weight or paying their share, and you've been shy about bringing up the topic. Now it's time to get to the point directly. It's also a good month to weed out fair-weather friends and show true ones how much they mean.

Aries

March 21 ☆ April 20

Things happen behind the scenes as relatives make plans to visit or surprise you in some other way. Someone close to you could become uncharacteristically jealous toward the 22nd. Strive for greater balance between physical and intellectual activities.

Taurus

April 21 ☆ May 22

This is the perfect month to promote your skills and plan ahead, begin by making a list of your accomplishments. You're involved in highly confidential matters. Watch out for a late-month tendency to go overboard on fitness and other physical activities.

Gemini

May 23 ☆ June 21

It's a month of discovery. Around the 16th you find an item that you thought was lost forever. You also learn that you and a new pal share a special interest. A family-related burden is eased thanks to a series of events happening throughout October.

Cancer

June 22 ☆ July 22

Well-meaning friends are getting a little *too* involved in your life. Someone may be highly intrusive around the 14th, and you'll have to respond quickly. Entrepreneurial efforts are extremely rewarding, as long as you don't ignore the details.

Leo

July 23 ☆ August 22

You're extremely resourceful. Money may be a bit tight, but you figure out how to earn more, or at least how to do the most with what you have. Your negotiating skills are impressive, and you have a knack for gaining the trust of a new friend.

Virgo

August 23 ☆ September 22

You can easily turn an interest into a moneymaking venture. Spontaneity is another theme. Invite someone to an impromptu dinner, take a spur-of-the-moment trip, or join an improv troupe. You're in a flirtatious mood, but watch who you're flirting with.

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10 STARS PICK THEIR FAVOURITE NOVELS

BY SUSAN GRANGER

GWYNETH PALTROW

"I love Jane Austen.... Perhaps because I delved into it so much for the movie, my favourite was *Emma*. When I read it, I thought, 'God, this is brilliant! It's funny and sweet.' Among contemporary novelists, I really loved Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes* and Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild*."

ALEC BALDWIN

"*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee...in some important ways, characters that we have grown to love in this story are worse off at its end — but they are wiser and the family still has each other. This is a great story about facing life's difficulties and moving on, no matter what."

CHARLTON HESTON

"If I had to pick just one novel, it would be Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*."

ANJELICA HUSTON

"I'd read Edith Wharton's short stories but never her novels — until *The House of Mirth* and *Age of Innocence*. She's an extraordinary storyteller with an amazing gift for detail, whether it be the innermost workings of the human heart or the rigors of social life in New York in the 1870s. She's as great to me as Henry James — and much more feminine!"

KELSEY GRAMMER

"My all-time favourite novel is *A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster, a brilliant insight into colonial India. It's about a clash of two worlds and the friendship of two men which sounds the depths and shortcomings of both cultures and captures a beautiful and tragic vision of history."

LYNN REDGRAVE

"I'd pick *Map of the World* by Jane Hamilton. It's a haunting study of a modern-day witch hunt. A family is taken apart forever when a child dies and a woman is wrongfully accused of child abuse. Told by both the husband and wife, this novel grabbed me by the stomach."

PATRICK STEWART

"I have many favourites but *Mayday* by Jonathan Lynn is an ironic, satirical, funny and finally tragic story about an English author living in Hollywood and suffering from writer's block.... Lynn is co-creator of the brilliant *Yes, Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister* series and, as an English actor living in Hollywood, I found the context recognizable and amusing."

WINONA RYDER

"I guess J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* because I read it when I was very young and very impressionable and it has remained in my consciousness ever since. I so identified with the characters — who felt like they were outsiders — then, and I do now."

KATHLEEN TURNER

"I'd choose *The Book of Daniel* by E.L. Doctorow. Such a book of society and justice, love and loyalties. Beautifully written!"

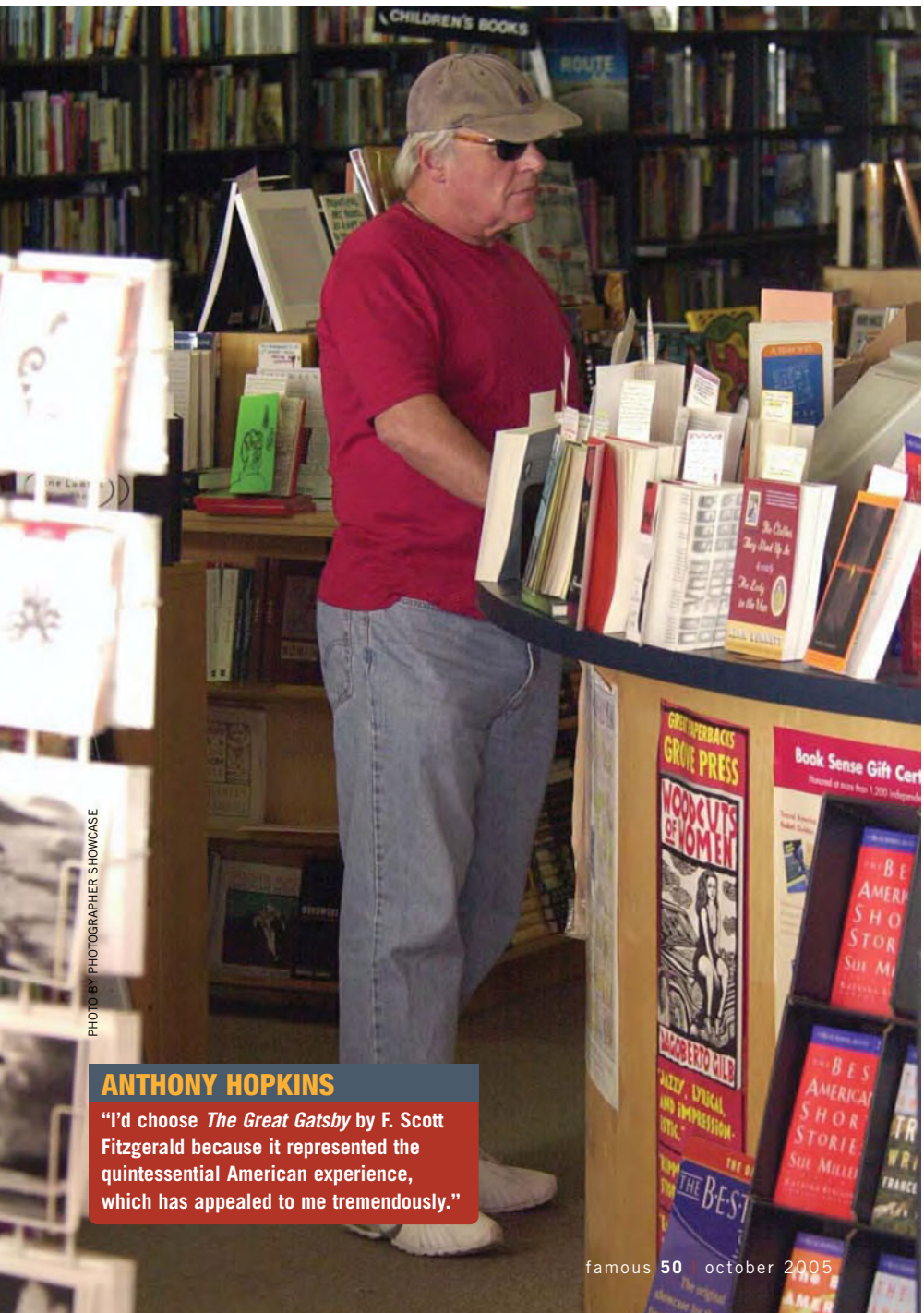

PHOTO BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE

ANTHONY HOPKINS

"I'd choose *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald because it represented the quintessential American experience, which has appealed to me tremendously."

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